



Civet at the Wildlife SOS sanctuary in Agra, India. (Kim Bartlett)

Coffee fad revives civet farming

DENPASAR, HANOI—Just seven years after China banned civet farming because of the association of civet consumption with more than 800 human deaths from Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome, a vogue for pricey civet coffee has brought the industry back perhaps bigger than ever—and certainly in many more places.

Sold to coffee snobs as *kopi luwak*, the Indonesian word for it, civet coffee is brewed from the beans that civets excrete after

eating coffee berries, one of their favorite foods. Civet coffee is by reputation stronger and usually more aromatic than most coffees.

Collecting and salvaging the excreted beans from wild civets is so laborious that civet coffee, known for centuries, has historically been so costly to produce as to be consumed only in small amounts by the very rich and jaded. But civet farming in coffee-growing country has brought civet coffee within

(continued on page 8)

Whole Foods introduces multi-tiered animal welfare certification

AUSTIN, WASHINGTON D.C.—The 300-store Whole Foods Markets chain and the Animal Compassion Foundation, begun by Whole Foods founder John Mackey, on November 15, 2010 introduced a new system of identifying how animals slaughtered for meat were raised. The first standards are for pigs, cattle, and chickens raised for meat. After a trial interval the system is to be extended to laying hens and dairy animals.

Managed by Global Animal Partnership, an operating name used by the Animal Compassion Foundation, the tiered certification system began with more member producers than all other U.S. farm animal welfare certification programs combined, just by including all Whole Foods suppliers. The program is designed, however, to draw other producers and retailers into participation.

Global Animal Partnership uses an acronym, GAP, which already has a high recognition factor from generic use by agricultural media to designate all programs



Pigs at pen gate. (Kim Bartlett)

which identify Good Agricultural Practices.

GAP allows consumers to choose among color-coded steps that indicate progressively higher levels of animal welfare achieved by the producers. The color codes are to be explained by signage displayed with the labeled products in stores. Products not reaching Step 1 are not sold by Whole Foods. The intended entry-level steps 1-3 are identified by orange strips; steps 4-5 and 5+ are identified by green strips. Step 1 certification is to mean “No cages, no crowding”; Step 2 is to mean “Enriched environment”; Step 3 is to mean “Enhanced outdoor access”; Step 4 requires a “pasture centered” husbandry regimen; Step 5 is to mean “Animal centered; bred for outdoors”; and Step 5+ is to mean “Animal centered; entire life on same farm.”

The stated goals of the Step 1 requirement parallels the goals of the 2008 California ballot initiative that introduced a phased-in ban of pig gestation stalls and veal crating (and battery caging of laying hens, not yet covered by GAP), but are spelled out in more detail, with further requirements and recommendations for producers that point toward eventually qualifying for more advanced certification. GAP steps 4-5 and 5+

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ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care About Animals

November/December 2010
Volume 19, #9

Indiana to allow chase pens

INDIANAPOLIS—The Indiana Natural Resources Commission on November 16, 2010 voted 9-2 to issue an operating permit to the only coyote and fox chase pen currently in the state, and to prohibit others from starting after January 1, 2012—which leaves other would-be Indiana chase pen proprietors a year to begin.

The ruling “was technically a preliminary approval that sets in motion an extensive public comment period,” explained Dan McFeely of the *Indianapolis Star*. “The final decision is expected within the next year. State Representative Linda Lawson (D-Hammond) has already heard from opponents and is planning to co-author a bill with Representative David Cheatham (D-North Vernon) to outlaw the enclosures.”

“It’s barbaric, and nothing but a

blood sport. We are going to lobby hard against this,” Central Indiana Kennel Club legislative liaison Jessie Burkhart told McFeely.

“This has evolved to take the place of dogfighting, to satisfy these people who like blood sport,” charged Indiana Coyote Rescue Center founder CeAnn Lambert.

Indiana Veterinary Medical Association past president Janet Houghton, DVM, and 11 other Indiana veterinarians co-signed an open letter to media opposing the Natural Resources Commission ruling.

The existing chase pen, at Linton in southern Indiana, is reportedly owned by Indiana Beaglers Alliance president Jack Hyden. The Indiana Beaglers Alliance claims about 200 members.

Laura Nirenberg, executive director of Wildlife Orphanage in LaPorte, Indiana, told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that she believes the year-long opening for additional chase pens to start will attract operators from other states where they are now banned or restricted.

Nirenberg sent **ANIMAL PEOPLE** a stack of documents she obtained through open records requests to the Indiana Department

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Cat takes cover. (Eileen Crossman)

Birders push shooting feral cats

WASHINGTON D.C.—The American Bird Conservancy did not come right out and say on December 1, 2010 that it favors shooting and lethally trapping feral cats. But ABC did issue a media release steering reporters to a newly published University of Nebraska at Lincoln extension service report that made those suggestions.

The release quoted ABC vice president for conservation advocacy Darin

Schroeder stating, “The report validates everything American Bird Conservancy has been saying about the feral cat issue for many years.”

Nothing in the release distanced ABC from the recommendation of report authors Aaron M. Hildreth, Stephen M. Vantassel, and Scott E. Hygnstrom that “Lethal methods, such as trapping with

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Dogs Deserve Better founder Tamira Thayne from August 2 until October 14, 2010 spent 10 hours each working day, 52 days in all, chained to the steps of the Pennsylvania state capitol in Harrisburg to promote an anti-chaining bill, which died when the legislative session ended.

California, Connecticut, Nevada, and Texas already limit the length of time that dogs can be left chained, along with hundreds of municipalities. Prolonged chaining is believed to make dogs more territorial and therefore more dangerous.

About a third of fatal dog attacks on children are by chained dogs. Brianna Nicole Shanor, 8, whose photo is on Thayne’s doghouse, was killed by a chained Rottweiler in Hanover, Pennsylvania, on January 19, 2009.

A pit bull terrier who broke a chain on November 10, 2010 killed Kaden Muckleroy, age 2, of Henderson, Texas. This and other recent pit bull fatalities in the same area have built support for efforts by a retired judge to ban pit bulls in Texas. (Page 16)



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Editorial feature

The renewed potential of online petitions

ANIMAL PEOPLE has never circulated a petition, online or otherwise. Yet one of our frequent functions in recent years is helping to inform and inspire online petition drives—and, sometimes, to point out that a petition may do more harm than good.

The popularity of petitions as a protest tactic perhaps began with the success of English nobility in obliging King John to assent to the Magna Carta at Runnymede in June 1215. The Declaration of Independence, addressed by American colonists to King George III, reinforced the lesson on July 4, 1776. Subsequent petitioners have often lost sight of the two elements that made these petitions memorably effective. The first was that in either case the signers were influential constituents of the king whom they sought to persuade. The second was that their actions had consequence. When John Hancock stepped forward to become first to sign the Declaration of Independence, his action had moral force because he put more than just his name on the line. This is what inspired others to add their signatures to his and then tax themselves heavily to back their words with the effort to introduce a new regime.

Petitions to this day tend to be most effective when the petitioners are people whom the petition recipient has reason to take seriously, for instance because they might vote the recipient out of office, and when signing in some manner signifies enduring concern, sufficient to influence a vote or a major economic decision even several years later.

In 1968 the privatization of the U.S. Postal Service changed the nature of petitioning somewhat by introducing bulk mail discounts—and direct mail fundraising, as we have known it ever since. Established charities already had mailing lists, but the upstarts who initiated the animal rights movement did not. As few lists of animal advocates were available for rent and trade before the early 1980s, the new organizations used petitioning to build mailing lists—and to this day make heavy use of petitions in donor acquisition mailings.

Whatever a mass-mailed petition achieves toward changing public policy came to be secondary in import to developing a support base. Petitions evolved to much less often mention specific current legislation, and came to be worded more to attract names and addresses than to actually influence the petition recipients.

But the strategic approaches of the Magna Carta and Declaration of Independence were not altogether forgotten. Usually seeking to build national mailing lists, direct mail petitioners almost exclusively address federal issues, so that the same text can be used in every state. In addition, combining petition-based list-building with appealing for donations tends to get respondents to make a monetary gesture of commitment. This is a matter of interest to politicians. A mere list of names of people who mostly do not vote in a politician’s district may not impress a politician, but a list of donors whose money might be pooled to make or break the politician’s re-election bid requires consideration.

The introduction of the Internet and the World Wide Web expanded the focus of petitioners to collecting e-mail addresses, but for a decade or more online petitioning was mostly done much like direct mail petitioning. The speed and reach of electronic media enabled petitioners to increase exponentially the numbers of endorsements they attracted. Yet, because “signing” an electronic petition requires only a mouse-click, and until recently was relatively seldom accompanied by financial commitment, petitioning came to be devalued as a campaign tactic. Indeed, petition targets can quickly use a “merge/purge” program to compare the names on an electronic petition with their customer and constituent lists to see whether the signers have any real leverage—and usually most do not. Electronic petitions would not have fazed Kings John and George III.

Then came the Care2 Petition Site and Facebook petitions, enabling almost anyone to collect tens of thousands of signatures from around the world almost overnight. The Care2 Petition Site and Facebook have democratized electronic petitioning, and brought it back to the local level, too. Suddenly there is an inexpensive, practical way for petitioners to address state and local concerns in a very specific manner.

Even more recently, Facebook pages linked to the Network for Good donation processing site often help to fund the local campaigns that the petitions support.

Years after spam filters threatened to kill online petitioning, there are more online petitions from more organizations and individual activists than ever—and online petitioning is more effective than ever, when used to rally actual constituents of power-holders in a manner

that shows authentic understanding of the issues and signifies continuing commitment.

Checking a box on an electronic petition e-mailed to a politician that requests updates about whatever the petition recipient does to redress a grievance may not impress most politicians as much as receiving a campaign donation, but does give the politicians a coveted addition to their electronic mailing lists and puts them on notice that action is expected.

The requirements of successful electronic petitioning are really much the same as the requirements of successful activism using any other tactic, and have not changed since Runnymede. An effective petition must address the people who have the authority to make the requested change. The requested change must be feasible. The requested change must be thought through, so that introducing it does not create a more serious problem than it rectifies. The petition must be both timely and factually accurate. Most important, the recipient must perceive both positive and negative consequences that might result from either acting upon the advice of a petition or dismissing it. Though King John had his kingdom to lose at Runnymede, he also had the possibility of winning back the political support of the English nobility: he was not in the position of having everything to lose, nothing to gain, and therefore no reason to refrain from ordering that the petition-bearers be beheaded.

A quick check of current Care2 or Facebook petitions on any given day will discover examples of petitions that mean well, yet waste the time required to click a “signature.”

For example, on the day this is written one petition seeks “to have a law imposed whereby companies are not allowed to put false or ambiguous statements on their products. A law where companies can only use ‘not tested on animals’ statements if both the ingredients *and* the final product are not tested on animals. A law where companies, as a whole, can only say they do not conduct animal testing if they themselves do not conduct animal testing *and* do not fund testing of their products via other companies and organizations.”

Superficially reasonable, this petition is directed to officials in a European Union nation—which already has a much stronger policy in place for sellers of cosmetic products, the major category in which products are promoted as “not tested on animals.”

Explains the EU information service Europa, “The Cosmetics Directive puts an end to animal testing by imposing bans on testing finished cosmetic products and ingredients on animals, and marketing finished cosmetic products which have been tested on animals, or which contain ingredients that have been tested on animals. The testing ban on finished cosmetic products has applied since September 2004.”

The testing ban on ingredients or combinations of ingredients was applied progressively as alternative methods were validated and adopted, until March 2009, when it took full force, with exceptions for testing to determine “repeated-dose toxicity, reproductive toxicity, and toxicokinetics. For these specific health effects,” says Europa, “the deadline is March 2013,” to ensure that the Cosmetics Directive remains consistent with REACH, the consolidated chemical safety regulation that the EU adopted in 2006. REACH requires that all chemical substances be tested to establish uniform safety standards. In the short run it was expected to increase animal testing by about 3%. In the long run it is expected to reduce animal testing by as much as half, by creating a unified European system for registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction of chemicals, replacing more than 40 separate national standards.

Consider the process of justice

A petition of a rather different sort demanded the dismissal of the Pinal County, Arizona, Animal Care & Control employee who on November 15, 2010 accidentally euthanized Target, a former Afghanistan street dog who with two other street dogs attacked a suicide bomber at the entrance of a U.S. Army barracks, saving many American lives. The Pinal County employee had not followed the correct shelter procedures, and was fired within the week. But the petition objected that before being fired, the unidentified employee was placed on paid leave, pending internal investigation to determine who actually made the mistake, and if the safeguards to prevent accidental killings were adequate.

In effect, the petition objected that the employee received fair treatment, in accord with standard union contracts and civil service procedures. The petitioners overlooked that the very provisions that kept this employee on the Pinal County payroll for an extra couple of days are those that protect workers from retaliatory firings if they point out problems—for instance, that errors are being made in euthanasia procedures, or that animals are being neglected.

Yet another online petition circulating on this day targeted the American SPCA—which is almost a no-kill organization—for the use of standardized temperament tests by shelters all over the U.S. to determine which dogs are to be euthanized as dangerous.

The advent of standardized temperament testing in place of staff judgement calls about dog behavior has coincided with a drop of about 20% in the numbers of pit bull terriers who are killed at shelters each year, from about a million to about 800,000. But the introduction of standardized temperament testing has also coincided with a steep rise in the numbers of people who are killed or disfigured by shelter dogs—more in both 2009 and 2010 than in the entire span from 1980 through 1999. The ASPCA may share both the credit and the blame, as a pioneer in the development of standardized temperament testing, but is scarcely responsible, as the petition asserted, for thousands of euthanasias of dogs who fail the tests.

The most common form of inappropriate petition online demands that prosecutors or judges immediately bring charges against a suspect who is accused of a heinous offense against animals, convict the suspect, and deliver a stiff sentence for the crime.

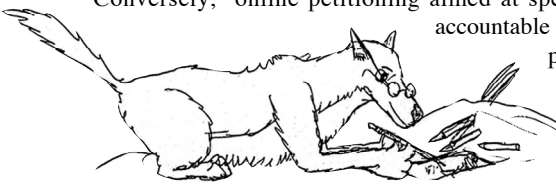
These are all reasonable hopes, but petitioners should be aware that when charges are not promptly filed against suspects in violent crimes, including crimes against animals, the usual problem is evidentiary. For example, evidence may have been obtained without a warrant, a witness cannot be located or is unreliable, forensic evidence takes time to process, or in one recent case, the legal identity of the suspect required several weeks to establish. Usually the suspect is held on bail for lesser charges, pending arraignment on the more serious charges, which must be filed within a reasonable time. If there is reason to believe that a prosecution is being neglected or a case is being covered up, petitioning for action may be in order, but effort should be made first to ensure that the prosecutor is not merely trying to be certain of winning a conviction when the case does go to court.

Petitioning a judge to convict a suspect is never appropriate—as several judges have pointed out in recent years, dismissing cases or recusing themselves because they have been subjected to electronic bombardment from activists who are in effect asking them to try the suspects based on public opinion, rather than on the evidence.

Public opinion may be considered in the sentencing phase of a case, after a suspect is convicted. Several states specifically provide for public opinion to be introduced in court during sentencing for felonies. Since there is usually an interlude of several days or weeks between conviction and sentencing, there is opportunity for appropriate online petitioning in response to a cruelty case, but it is important to correctly word and direct this type of testimony, so that it can be considered by the court. Some courts offer guidelines for how to do this.

Inappropriate online petitioning usually just wastes everyone’s time, albeit in small increments, but at worst can result in losing a case or an issue.

Conversely, online petitioning aimed at specific local issues, when done in an accountable manner by authentic constituents of the power holders, has huge potential for helping to re-democratize politics, amplify individual activist voices, and build strong community animal advocacy institutions.



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LETTERS

CO2 isn't humane

My letter is a response to "Controlled atmosphere stunning moves ahead," October 2010.

I disagree with the view set forth in this article by the proponents of carbon dioxide gassing that CO2 is a humane method of killing chickens. It is most likely less cruel than the conventional method of dragging conscious birds through electrically-charged saltwater to paralyze their muscles in order to facilitate feather removal after they are dead, and to immobilize the birds on the slaughter line, but anything is likely to be better than being riddled with electric shocks.

Evidence shows that birds, like mammals, have chemical receptors in their lungs that are acutely sensitive to CO2, with the result that subjection to this toxic gas induces pain, panic, suffocation and breathlessness (dyspnea) in those who inhale it.

By contrast, chickens and other birds do not have the chemical receptors in their lungs to detect inert gases such as argon and nitrogen, which is why animal welfare proponents, including scientists like Dr. Mohan Raj, have fought for decades to get poultry slaughter plants to switch from electri-

We invite readers to submit letters and original unpublished commentary — please, nothing already posted to a web site—via e-mail to <anmlpepl@whidbey.com> or via postal mail to: **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, P.O. Box 960, Clinton, WA 98236 USA.

cal "stunning" to the stun/kill method of inducing permanent unconsciousness in poultry by means of nitrogen/argon.

Behavioral evidence supports the biological evidence. Whereas chickens subjected to CO2 show clear signs of distress, shaking their heads and stretching their necks to breathe, chickens in the presence of argon or nitrogen exhibit no comparable signs of suffering.

Poultry companies sincerely wishing to reduce the suffering of their birds to a minimum should bypass CO2 and invest in inert gas systems. Then their proposed "humane" labels will have at least a semblance of truth.

—Karen Davis, PhD.
President

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Chicken slaughter & rare breeds

Could you please send me an e-mailable version of your October 2010 page one article "Controlled atmosphere poultry stunning moves ahead"? I want to send it to some folks at the Farm Bureau and our local organization Urban Chicken Advocacy of Nashville.

I would like to see an article about the different slaughter practices for livestock, including chickens in Asian, Hispanic, and European markets. I would also like to see an article about the push to save the heritage breeds of livestock and chickens in this country. There are many breeds becoming extinct as we speak. They have lost favor with Tyson and Purdue-type operations because they grow more slowly, with normal body mass. We have a handful of farmers and breed enthusiasts facing insurmountable odds to bring this matter to public attention.

If you have ever attended a heritage or urban chicken meeting, the manner in which husbandry and care is presented is entirely different from similar meetings I have attended where the subject was commercial agricultural production. I sat on a bale of

straw at a CoOp in Murray County, Tennessee once with a variety of rural and city folks and listened to an older man, a farmer who had acquired some heritage chicks, who discussed tending to them after they came down with an illness. He shared his sadness about the loss of one, and was proud of those who survived as he cared for them around the clock. He wanted the group to know that ill chicks can be saved. I was taken with the tenderness and caring that he and others expressed for their chickens. Some did raise birds for meat, but not all.

The evolution of interspecies empathy begins in steps—we arrive at the destination at different speeds and in different times.

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Label products by how animals are kept

The Farm Animal Welfare Forum, supported by Compassion in World Farming, the Food Animal Initiative, Co-operative Food, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, the Royal SPCA, the Soil Association, and the University of Bristol's Animal Welfare and Behaviour Group have proposed to the European Parliament the mandatory labeling of all meat and dairy products sold within the European Union to identify the farming methods used to produce them. The European Union has a similar labeling scheme for eggs already in effect. This will

enable people to choose products based on how the animals have lived.

FAWF wants other organizations to support this proposal. Please send an e-mail to <jo@fawf.org.uk>, titled "We support mandatory labeling of farm animal products," and in the e-mail text mention at least the name, e-mail address of your organization, and your nationality. Thank you!

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ANIMAL PEOPLE Holiday Nut Roast

Mix together:

2 pounds of firm tofu, mashed well
2 cups of coarsely chopped walnuts
(Other nuts may be substituted, such as sunflower seeds or pecans.)

Thoroughly blend in:

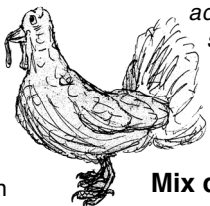
1/4 cup of soy sauce
2 teaspoons thyme leaves
1 teaspoon basil leaves
2 tablespoons of dried parsley or 1/2 cup of chopped fresh parsley
1 finely chopped onion
1 teaspoon minced garlic

(Seasonings may be altered to suit preferences. For example, a teaspoon of sage may be added, or you may add more garlic)

Finally, add:

1 cup of dried breadcrumbs
1/2 cup of whole wheat flour

Mix all ingredients well. Turn into oiled pan(s) and form into a 1-inch thick loaf. Rub the top of the loaf with a very thin coating of olive or other vegetable oil. Cover the



pan(s) with foil, and bake for one hour at 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Take the foil off the pan and cook about 10 minutes longer, until the top of the loaf is browned. The loaf tastes best when crispy.

Serve with cranberry sauce, apple sauce, or apple butter. Good with vegetarian gravy and cornbread dressing (you can adapt any traditional recipe by simply substituting vegetable broth or water for the customary meat broth).

Vegan cornbread

Mix dry ingredients:

1 cup white flour
3 Tablespoons sugar
3 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup corn meal

Mix wet ingredients:

1 cup of soy milk
1/4 cup vegetable oil

Stir the two mixtures together until fully moistened. Turn batter into oiled square or round cake pan. Bake 20-25 minutes, until just brown, at 350 degrees.

Using eggs to de-worm Bali street dogs

I would like to add a few thoughts to the commentary by Merritt Clifton, "Deworming makes a real-life 'slum dog millionaire,'" published in the September 2009 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and distributed as a handout at the 2010 Asia for Animals conference in Singapore.

If you can catch a street dog who has parasites, an Ivermectin injection works best as the first treatment. Then I like to follow a weekly schedule of administering a teaspoon of Ivermectin inside a boiled egg. Eggs from our multitudes of free-roaming hens are a dietary staple of dogs here in Bali, but any kind of food that the dogs of a particular locale are familiar with will work.

Once the dogs are used to me feeding them, they wait for my car to drive by. Then I can hand boiled eggs, with meds inside, out the car window and they gulp them down.

I give worm tablets when needed this way as well. I have seen the skinniest most mangy dogs bounce back after 1-2 months of

treatment. Then I give them one teaspoon of Ivermectin each month. If you cannot get Ivermectin, a good worm tablet will help a lot. Street dogs usually seem to get enough food somehow, but uncontrolled parasites are a problem they need help to overcome.

It is important to watch for other health problems that can cause a dog to waste away. We often get dogs here with pancreatic problems. These dogs never gain weight, and without expensive and difficult ongoing care, they slowly starve to death. We have worked hard to try to save dogs, only to find that week after week their condition gets worse until we have to euthanize them. We are trying to learn when we can help a dog, and when we can't.



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Humane Legislative Fund vs. the NRA

Thanks for the rundown of election results in the October 2010 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** [actually published on November 3]. Just one correction: the Humane Society Legislative Fund endorsed three gubernatorial candidates. Ted Strickland lost in Ohio, but John Kitzhaber in Oregon and Patrick Quinn in Illinois won very narrowly.

One of the best markers of our political progress is to compare how our endorsed candidates did in comparison with the National Rifle Association.

In Arizona the NRA and allies in the state legislature placed Proposition 109 on the ballot, which would have made hunting a constitutional right and the preferred method of wildlife management, and would have blocked voters from advancing citizen initiatives on wildlife topics. The NRA spent more than \$200,000 advocating for Proposition 109, but Arizona voters said "no," 56.5% to 43.5%.

The Humane Society Legislative Fund and the NRA each endorsed about 300 Congressional candidates. We endorsed 249 candidates who won and 47 who lost, for a win rate of 84.1%. The NRA backed 244 win-

ners and 59 losers, for a win rate of 80.5%. In the seven contested Senate races where we and the NRA endorsed opposing candidates, we won four and the NRA won three.

Since Republicans took the majority of the House of Representatives, one might think that the political environment favored the NRA. But NRA influence is waning. Some Democrats pander to the NRA to prove their Second Amendment bona fides, but of the 65 Democrats endorsed by the NRA, 32 lost, and most of the winners were in very safe districts.

The NRA continues to oppose common-sense policies on inhumane and unsporting practices, such as canned hunts, bear baiting, aerial gunning of wolves, and even poaching. By contrast, our message of protecting animals from cruelty and abuse has universal reach, including with swing voters who are critical to both parties in tough races.



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Please Help Me Heal My name is Marshmallow.

My name is Marshmallow and a short while ago I was out in the world on my own. I was having health problems and could have died. I couldn't see; my eyes were filled with debris and they burned with terrible irritation.

Life is very different now. I live at North Shore Animal League America, and am finally safe. I am in the Help Me Heal Program because I need a lot of medical care. Both of my eyes have severe conjunctivitis, which is an infection of the tissue that lines the eyelids.

My right eye is so infected – that I don't have any vision out of it and it's going to need to be surgically removed. This operation will take weeks to heal and will require constant care. Though my left eye is also infected, Animal League veterinarians think I may have some vision out of it, so they are holding off on operating for now. Instead, they are medicating it and keeping it very clean.

The Animal League is very experienced with this type of operation – even on tiny kittens, which makes it more delicate. Only a short while ago, they had a kitten named Pounce, and he had the same surgery, which was a great success. He went on to be a healthy and happy kitten and even got adopted! I know I will too.

Help Me Heal is a vital and life-saving program. Your support improves and saves countless animals' lives. Your generosity will help me get the operation I need to be healthy.

To help continue the care for Marshmallow and help other animals in our Help Me Heal Program, visit www.AnimalLeague.org/help-me-heal

"North Shore Animal League
America's Help Me Heal Program
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AnimalLeague.org

Making humane education progress in Vietnam

You published a brief letter from me in the April 2010 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that discussed our initial efforts in Vietnam. This is to give you an update.

On November 1, 2010, I and two other trainers flew to Hanoi to commence a nine-month Humane Edutainment pilot project in partnership with the International Organization of Good Templars/Vietnam, Live & Learn, Green Network, Fauna & Flora International, and the Vietnam Veterinary Medicine Club.

Our six-day workshop aimed to provide participants with the skills needed to plan and implement Humane Edutainment events throughout the Hanoi region. We provided training in techniques designed to stimulate critical thinking, perspective-taking, conflict resolution, and divergent thinking. Representatives from the World Society for the Protection of Animals, Live & Learn, the Animals Asia Foundation, Education Nature Vietnam and VietPet also gave presentations.

More than 35 Vietnamese attended. The culmination was a Humane Edutainment performance featuring vignettes created by the participants. The vignettes covered such topics as how to help a chained dog, dealing with conflict at home over rescued kittens, refusing to use medicines made from endangered animals, and not participating in bullying.

Vignettes such as these are the core of the Humane Edutainment approach, which calls on audience members to become part of the sociodrama with an eye toward developing successful resolution of complex ethical dilemmas. The vast majority of our participants were not "animal people," though there were a few in the group. The lack of prior pro-animal attitudes among most of group was helpful in allowing us to gauge their response to the material. Most were enthusiastic about continuing. Humane Edutainment field projects are to be planned and led by Vietnamese youth with mentoring and subject expertise from other organizations and individuals.

We had some interesting discussions with the participants about dog and cat meat and the relative perceived importance of cultural traditions. I got some pushback about the notion that the dog meat trade is intrinsically cruel, but the participants almost universally agreed that dogs destined for the

dinner table should not suffer intensive confinement and beatings, and that such mistreatment should be addressed.

I was pleased to hear several Vietnamese veterinarians and veterinary students sharing strategies for dealing with backyard dog breeders using existing health and noise statutes.

I heard almost universal repugnance in discussions concerning bear bile farming. Several years of intensive public anti-bear bile awareness campaigns by groups like the Animals Asia Foundation and Education Nature Vietnam appear to have hit their mark, at least with youth audiences. The medicinal use of bear bile is no longer viewed as representing Vietnamese cultural values. This gives me hope that a similar strategy addressing the consumption of dog and cat meat might eventually gain traction with youth.

On November 16 graduates of the workshop presented a Humane Edutainment performance for 30 students at the Hanoi University of Agriculture, which includes the College of Veterinary Medicine. Several veterinary students attended and took the lead in setting up and running the performance. They wrote and performed new vignettes dealing with trapping exotic wildlife and caring for sick water buffalo.

The first full scale Humane Edutainment event is planned for next month at Nguyen Tat Thanh high school in Hanoi. Over the next several months the team will visit high schools and universities throughout Hanoi.

A presentation on humane education was also given at the U.S. Embassy's American Center in Hanoi. More than 80 Vietnamese youth attended, many of whom subsequently volunteered to be part of the pilot Humane Edutainment project.

Following conversations with representatives of VietPet.com and Vietnam's Veterinary Medicine Club, we have also decided to support the formation of a home-grown animal rescue club in Hanoi. We are currently in discussions with Soi Cats And Dogs of Bangkok to coordinate a 3-4 day visit to their facility by a handful of Vietnamese veterinary medicine students and a senior vet to explore what it would take to establish an animal rescue operation in Hanoi.

Ultimately, I'd also like to get a couple of them to Jakarta and Manila to see what is going on there. This group

Killing dogs is *haram*

The Egyptian Gazette on November 26, 2010 quoted Sheikh Farahat Saeed of Al-Azhar University, Egypt's highest seat of Islamic learning, saying that it is necessary to get rid of stray cats and dogs because they are a health hazard, but that they should be killed mercifully. I made an inquiry to the hotline for Azhar Islamic Advisory Opinions and asked, "Is killing roaming peaceful dogs not prohibited in Islam?"

The answer was "Yes, as they harm and threaten people."

I made another inquiry and said, "I mentioned clearly, stray peaceful dogs, who do not harm anybody. If you allow killing peaceful dogs, as per the answer to my previous question, you permit killing all dogs. Please, I am asking specifically about stray peaceful dogs."

This time the answer was, "Killing stray peaceful dogs is *haram* (prohibited) unless there is evidence that they have caused harm and threat."

—Dina Zulfikar
Cairo, Egypt



currently carries out very limited and informal animal rescue activities, but we feel that mentoring by a professional animal rescue organization in the region would significantly enhance and accelerate the development of animal rescue capacity in Hanoi, and serve as a model for similar projects in other Vietnamese cities.

Humane Society International recently provided a generous grant to help get our work underway and the Farm Animal Reform Movement also helped out.

Keep up the good work at **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. It is the best single source of info available for those of us who care about animals in every clime and place!



—Robert E. Lucius
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CAFO & Bodega

Thank you for your outstanding review of *CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations): The Tragedy of Industrial Animal Factories!* You obviously have an extensive knowledge of this topic. I especially liked that you highlighted Matthew Scully's work. I'm sure many readers will be surprised to see him included in this book.

—Kathlene Carney
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Editor's note:

Carney is publicist for CAFO, edited and published by Daniel Imhoff of Watershed Media in nearby Healdsburg.

Carney's Bodega Bay Life web site offers many of her photos of local wildlife, among them bobcats photographed from her porch, and includes three pages of my memoirs of participating as an extra when Alfred Hitchcock filmed *The Birds* in the twin villages of Bodega and Bodega Bay in 1962.

Though crows, gulls, and many smaller birds were abundant in 1962, and were attracted in astonishingly large numbers by the papier maché decoys Hitchcock brought as props, bobcats and quite a few other species Carney has recently photographed had not been seen around Bodega then in decades. Hitchcock himself noticed and pointed out to several of us local lads that raptors should also have been attracted to prey on the smaller birds, but seemed strangely missing. His discussion of this was the first time I heard about the effects of pesticides on birds.

I knew that pumas, bobcats, bears and foxes were missing from old books about northern California wildlife that I read at Potter School, the central location of *The Birds*. I kept some of the books after the school was closed at the end of 1961 and still treasure them. Except for coyotes and turkey vultures, who were sometimes seen despite all efforts to kill them, wild predators and scavengers had been extirpated on behalf of sheep and cattle ranchers by the Animal Damage Control division of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Transferred to the USDA in 1986, the agency is now called Wildlife Services.

I wondered in a 1977 article for the long defunct nature magazine *Snowy Egret* whether the Bodega wildlife could recover, if the countryside was no longer littered with "coyote-getters" firing the poison Compound 1080 at any animal or human who stumbled across one, and if the food chain build-up of DDT that had made many raptors endangered could be stopped. Carney's photographs document a much more optimistic outcome than in 1977 I imagined possible.

HFA's SUWANNA RANCH COMPASSION IN ACTION

The Humane Farming Association's campaign against factory farming – groundbreaking legal actions, anti-cruelty investigations, National Veal Boycott, and campaign against slaughterhouse abuses – continues to be a leading force against cruel agribusiness practices. There is, however, another aspect of our work that is equally meaningful: HFA's hands-on emergency care and refuge for abused animals.

HFA's SUWANNA RANCH – the world's largest farm animal refuge – provides over seven square miles of land for rescued victims of animal cruelty. SUWANNA RANCH continues to gain national recognition for its lifesaving work – providing rescue assistance and refuge to hundreds of abused and neglected animals each year.

The fact that HFA stands ready to provide both temporary and permanent care encourages law enforcement agencies to use their legal authority to rescue farm animals from criminal neglect and cruelty.

The cows, sheep, pigs, chickens, turkeys, goats, burros, llamas, emus, and other animals HFA cares for each year arrive with their own tragic stories. But these stories now have happy endings.

At HFA's SUWANNA RANCH, victims of cruelty find kindness they had never before experienced. For the first time in their lives, they find compassionate and caring people who are there to help them rather than to harm them.

In addition to providing care and shelter to abused animals seized in cruelty cases, SUWANNA RANCH also functions as one of the region's largest wildlife sanctuaries.

Several areas within SUWANNA RANCH are maintained as protected habitats for deer, bear, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, possum, owl, otter, eagle, hawk, beaver, quail, wild turkey, egret, pheasant, great blue heron, and other wildlife.

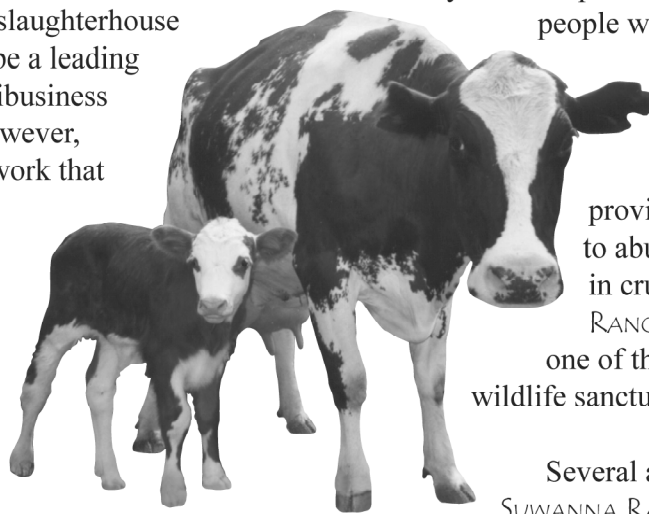
OPEN HOUSE

If you would like to be notified about our next open house or other

opportunities to visit, please send us an email at SuwannaRanch@HFA.org. Please note in the subject line: "Open House."

To all of our friends, supporters, and animal activists everywhere, we wish you the best for the holiday season.

May the New Year bring peace and happiness to *all* sentient beings.



HFA does not use professional fundraisers – your contribution goes directly into HFA's lifesaving work.

Culturally Rationalized Forms of Chicken Sacrifice:
The Kaporos Ritual & the Chicken Project
by Karen Davis, Ph.D., president & founder, United Poultry Concerns

The idea that some groups were put on the earth to suffer and die sacrificially for a superior group or ideal goes far back in time. This idea is deeply embedded in human cultures, including the culture of the West, which is rooted in ancient Greek and Hebrew modes of thought, incorporated into Christianity, where these roots combine.

Animal sacrifice is not just an anachronism in these “enlightened” times. It thrives in modern forms, for example, in the sacrifice of other animal species for humans in biomedical research, which is even called “sacrifice” in the lexicon of the researchers, and in rituals of animal food consumption that may not appear to be “rituals” until examined more closely, such as slaughtering turkeys at Thanksgiving and encouraging every citizen to partake of the flesh of the officially designated sacrificial bird.

Through the ages, people have sought to rid themselves of their impurities—including sins, vices, diseases, and social dissension—by symbolically transferring their impurities to innocent victims. In Christianity, Jesus is the sacrificial lamb who takes away the sins of the world. The Hasidic custom of Kaporos, a word which means atonement, is an Orthodox Jewish ritual of similar symbolic meaning, practiced before Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement.

To practice Kaporos, begun in the Middle Ages, adherents swing chickens, held by the legs or by pinning the birds’ wings backward, around their heads. While swinging the birds the practitioners of Kaporos chant about transferring their sins and punishment onto the birds. The birds are then slaughtered under tents. The remains are supposed to be given to the poor, as with the remains of animals slaughtered at the Eid, preceding the Feast of Atonement observed by Muslims.

On September 26, 2009, National Public Radio reported that on that particular day a synagogue in Queens, New York slaughtered 4,000 chickens for Kaporos. Some 50,000 chickens are sacrificed in Kaporos ceremonies each year in New York City alone. Thousands more are sacrificed in New Jersey, Los Angeles, Jerusalem and other places where Hasidic Orthodox Jewish communities are located.

Self-improvement

In Jewish tradition, the period between Rosh Hashanah (“Jewish New Year”) and Yom Kippur is a time for Jews to repent for their sins of the previous year through acts of kindness and charity promoted by Jewish teachings. Kaporos is not required by Jewish law. Most Jews who practice the ceremony swing coins which they donate to charity.

The swinging and slaughtering of chickens in Kaporos rituals is opposed not only by more liberal sectors of Judaism, but by many Orthodox Jews, who consider the practice an embarrassing custom inconsistent with the spirit of repentance and atonement of Yom Kippur. In a telephone interview in August 2010, Rabbi Steven Weil, head of the Orthodox Union of Rabbis in New York City, told me that the Orthodox Union opposes using chickens as Kaporos, because

of the “insensitivity” of the ritual to the birds, the bad impression it makes on others, and its lack of historical foundation.

Even practitioners concede that the use of chickens is not a substitute for repentance.

However, practitioners also insist that cutting chickens’ throats and watching them die gives them, in the words of Rabbi Shea Hecht in Brooklyn, “a realization that, ‘Hey, I have to make changes. I have to improve myself.’”

The Jewish Star on September 15, 2010 reported that the use of chickens as Kaporos in America can largely be traced to Rabbi Hecht’s father, who “began trucking chickens” to Crown Heights in Brooklyn in 1974. Rabbi Hecht told NPR that swinging a chicken isn’t the point of Kaporos. The main part, he says, “is handing the chicken to the slaughterer and watching the chicken being slaughtered. Because that is where you have an emotional moment, where you say, ‘Oops, you know what? That could have been me.’” For him, swinging coins in a handkerchief is a “thin spiritual experience” compared with the “visceral” experience of “holding a live animal in your hands just before it dies for your sins.”

Kaporos practitioners claim that they treat the chickens they kill “humanely,” despite packing and stacking them in transport crates, where they often endure days without food, water or shelter; despite many photographed and videotaped instances of grabbing chickens from the crates, only to stand around idly chatting while holding the chickens with their wings pulled painfully backward and their legs hanging unsupported from the hip joints; despite often swinging the very same chickens over and over in the days leading up to the slaughter; and despite throwing birds dying of dehydration, injury, and exhaustion into dumpsters in plastic garbage bags.

Kaporos practitioners also insist the slaughter itself is painless. More consistent with their actual behavior, however, is their view of the birds as receptacles for their sins and punishment. Kaporos chickens are *supposed to suffer and be treated harshly*: their role is to receive the punishment that God would otherwise mete out to the sinners.

In their role as Kaporos, the chickens are said to be “elevated to a higher purpose,” in part by impressing practitioners with the inferiority of animal life and the danger for humans of sinking to an “animal” level.

Photojournalist Carol Guzy in “An ancient tradition draws protests,” published in *The Washington Post* on October 9, 2010, quoted Rabbi Yosef Y. Jacobson: “We swing the chicken overhead, humbling ourselves and realizing that when we act based on instinct itself, without challenging our instincts based on reason, we are comparable to animals.”

Is the idea, then, that swinging a chicken over one’s head is a mock ceremonial imitation of the despised “instinctual animal” behavior that Kaporos practitioners are taught to avoid, lest they become “like animals”?

Despite how uncaringly the Kaporos practitioners whom Guzy photographed treated the live chickens they swung, they claimed to be “compassionate people.”

Kaporos is the focal activity of neighborhood gatherings to which parents bring their children to observe the swinging and slaughtering of the chickens and thus be initiated into this aspect of their culture. As Guzy documented, young children blow kisses to the birds and pat their heads, saying “Bye-bye chicken” before the slaughter. Older children imitate their elders by holding the chickens as if they were worthless and contemptible objects, instead of “sacred” animals.

As with other culturally rooted abusive practices, eliminating the abuse of chickens in Kaporos must be accomplished mostly from within the community whose ritual it is. However, for this to happen, outsiders must express disapproval and help to amplify the voices of Hasidic opponents of chicken-swinging. Moreover, in criticizing the practices of any already insular community with a tradition of uniting to resist attack, it is necessary to avoid allowing the practitioners of the offense to hide behind a cultural defense.

Many respected Orthodox Jewish voices find Kaporos deeply offensive. One who did, and spoke out was Shlomo Goren (1917-1994), who participated in founding the modern nation of Israel and was chief rabbi of Israel from 1973 to 1983. Such voices, including those within the Hasidic community who question Kaporos, must be encouraged.

Meanwhile in Middle America

Meanwhile, there are similar rituals practiced within mainstream Middle America, albeit rarely recognized as such, which animal advocates of mainstream Middle American background need to address.

Initiating children into the society of their birth, through rituals of animal slaughter, is traditional both in rural communities and in cities where rites from a rural past are retained. Where I grew up, in Altoona, Pennsylvania, schools were closed on the first day of hunting season—still are—so that boys could “go huntin’” with their dads, uncles, and cousins. Boys with empathy for animals were coerced by the men and the atmosphere they generated to overcome any “sissy” emotions they might have about shooting a deer, a pen-raised pheasant, a rabbit, turkey, squirrel, or even a songbird—so long as the killing took place for the most part during regular hunting seasons. Otherwise the entire animal population would be wiped out fast, and with it the pleasing rituals of the “sport,” including the sentimental satisfaction hunters like

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to proclaim about giving the animals a “break.”

On the farm, cattle-branding, pig-sticking (slaughter), and 4-H programs have traditionally initiated children into the “realities” of life, and a farm boy or girl must learn the rituals of conduct and speech fitted to these occasions.

In 4-H livestock projects, a child is given a young animal of his or her own to raise. When the animal is grown, the child enters the animal in an agricultural fair to compete for a prize, after which the animal is auctioned and hauled off to slaughter. Competing for a prize and auction money helps to divert the child’s emotions from the harm impending to the animal who has been innocently raised. The 4-H experience culminates in sacrificing the animal in a ritual meant to maintain the agricultural way of life. It also involves sacrifice of the child’s feelings of tenderness and love for the animal. A 4-H participant goes typically from a condition of happy innocence to grief and tears, leading to final acceptance of the “necessity” of these sacrifices, so that within a few years, the soul of the youngster who wept over his or her first cow, pig, or sheep has effectively been slain, and the young adult may participate in raising animals for slaughter by the hundreds, thousands, or even tens of thousands.

The Chicken Project

The Chicken Project, also sometimes called the Broiler Project, does not appear to be promoted by any particular organization. As either the Chicken Project or the Broiler Project it begins with a school purchasing 20 or so baby “broiler” chicks from an industrial hatchery for students to raise for six weeks and then kill, under the guidance of their teacher.

Following the slaughter, the remains are consumed at a school banquet. Any raw or residual grief or awful memories the students might have about killing their chickens, watching them suffer and die in buckets of blood, is absorbed into a festival of food and manufactured “pride” that the teacher and school officials tell the students they should feel as a result of having “raised their own food” instead of buying “factory-farmed meat” at the supermarket.

Naomi Goldberg, a teacher at a private school in Sun Valley, Idaho, in November 2009 wrote to me: “I am one of the teachers of the 8th grade class in Idaho who taught the Food Unit and facilitated the Chicken Project...When we created the ‘Sustainability and Food Unit,’ our intentions were to open our students’ eyes to the consequences of their eating habits beyond their own personal health...Through the course of the unit, students saw food-related films (*Food, Inc.*, *The True Cost of Food*, *Super Size Me*), read articles and books by a variety of food experts (Michael Pollan, Eric Schlosser, Mark Bittman, Blake Hurst), and did independent research on student-generated food-related questions. And yes, they raised chickens.”

In the course, Goldberg wrote, students “researched factory farms” and learned that “although we were going to be slaughtering our chickens, the chickens’ lives were spent in much cleaner, healthier, and happier conditions than they might have experienced had they been raised on a factory farm.”

These claims reflect the recent trend known as the “locavore movement.” Based on the idea that people should consume only food that is grown or slaughtered locally, to reduce the environmental cost of long-distance food transport, the locavore movement is also about eating “clean,” preferably organic, food, as opposed to the “unclean,” chemically embalmed garbage of factory farming.

Factory farming is decried, but what has come to define and energize the movement above all is the argument crystallized by Michael Pollan in *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*, that while industrial animal production is nasty and cruel, human beings are designed by “our evolutionary heritage” to eat animals. Slaughtering one’s own animals, buying slaughtered meat from local allegedly “sustainable” and “humane” farms is promoted as the most reasonable and ethically sophisticated solution to the problems presented by factory farming.

Thus, while a high school Chicken Project may include a vegetable garden and related assignments, the course is weighted with the idea that the most important and “realistic” food choices are between factory-farmed meat and “meat” you kill yourself, or as nearly as possible.

Just as Michael Pollan, Eric Schlosser and other gurus of the locavore movement dismiss a vegetarian/vegan diet and lifestyle as self-righteous, boring and antisocial, so the “chicken project” imparts to students the belief that, in

(continued on page 7)

MORE LETTERS

Manganas & piales

To date, nine states have outlawed horse tripping (*manganas*), one of the nine standard events of the Mexican-style rodeo called *charreada*. California was the first, in 1994, followed by Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Maine, Illinois, Florida and Nebraska. Nevada and Colorado are expected to ban horse tripping in 2011.

The horse tripping language in most state laws says that it is illegal to rope a horse by the legs and “cause it to fall or lose its balance.” This language is crucial. I have six recent statements from California animal control agencies declaring that *charreada’s* event called *piales* is also illegal, and prosecutable under this definition. In *manganas* horses are roped by their front legs. In *piales*, running horses are roped by their hind legs. These horses usually do not fall, but they do lose their balance. Some veterinarians say *piales* is even more harmful to the horses than *manganas*.

Animal activists where horse tripping is illegal should demand that local agencies monitor *charreada* and put a stop to *piales*.



—Eric Mills, coordinator
Action for Animals
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Charitable status revoked

In your July/August 2010 obituary for Fur Bearer Defenders cofounder George Clements you quoted Clements saying that “The four main Canadian anti-trapping and anti-fur groups were told by Revenue Canada that if they persisted in their criticism of the fur trade, they risked losing their charitable status. All of the groups but ours quickly acquiesced. We had our charitable status annulled.” The Animal Defence League of Canada gave up our charitable status at the same time for the same reason. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** ran the news of our loss of charitable status on page one.



—Esther Klein
Animal Defence League of Canada
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<animal-defence.ncf.ca>

Wildlife SOS evacuates bear sanctuary

BANGALORE—Responding to posters hung by Naxalist Maoist rebels warning “Leave the forest if you wish to remain safe,” Wildlife SOS cofounder Kartick Satyanarayan during the second week of November 2010 led the evacuation of 22 former dancing bears from a rescue center in Purulia, West Bengal, to the Bannerghatta Rescue Center on the outskirts of Bangalore in Karnataka state, 1,200 miles south.

The 12 male and 10 female sloth bears were moved in three trucks by a team of 12 Wildlife SOS staff. The journey over most of the length of India took four days. The arrival of the West Bengal bears expanded the Bannerghatta Rescue Center bear population to 139.

“When the Purulia Forest Department and Animal Rescue Center received serious threats from Maoist insurgency groups to evacuate all staff from the forest area, we were concerned,” Satyanarayan told *The Times of India*, “since several wild animals, birds and snakes were burnt alive in a Maoist

attack in December 2009 on the Jhargram Zoo in West Bengal.” In a similar incident, Maoists in August 2010 burned a truckload of 70 pigs who had just arrived from Haryana state.

Earlier in 2010 the National Tiger Conservation Authority blamed alleged losses of tigers at reserves in Jharkand and five other states on Maoists. The NTCA blamed the insurgents for poaching tigers and tiger prey and driving out wildlife agents, but was embarrassed when media asked how officials knew about tiger losses if no one had been able to count the tigers.

“The *India State of Forest* report, released by environment minister Jairam Ramesh last year, said that Maoist-controlled areas witnessed maximum increase in forest cover,” recalled Sowmya Aji of *India Today*.

Maoist leaders meanwhile agreed to cooperate with tiger censuses in the Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand reserves that the NTCA had claimed were inaccessible.

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The Kaporos ritual & the Chicken Project (continued from page 6)

Goldberg’s words, a vegetarian diet is “highly unrealistic for us to expect of our students, or our fellow Americans.”

The purification ritual inherent in the Chicken Project consists of “empowering” students with the possibility of riding themselves of filthy factory-farmed meat, in favor of “pure” meat. The students cleanse their minds of what Pollan calls “dreams of innocence” about where food, meaning animal food, comes from, through killing their own chickens, called “processing,” followed by a Banquet of the Birds, with perhaps one or two students smiling over their carcasses, knives in hand, in a picture for the local newspaper.

“Not Chicklett!”

When the time came on October 11, 2010 for students at Concordia High School, in the small agricultural town of Concordia, Kansas, to slaughter their chickens, one student said “No.” Whitney Hillman, a 16-year-old junior in Nate Hamilton’s Animal Science class, not only refused to slaughter her chicken, Chicklett, but grabbed him out of his cage the day of the killings, tucked him into her purse, and spirited him to safety. Whitney didn’t stop there. She wrote an impassioned letter to Hamilton and the high school principal explaining her actions. In her letter she described how the students were told to name their chickens and color them with purple markers for identification, and how resistance to the project grew inside her along with her devotion to Chicklett who, she wrote, “has become a loved one.”

Telling the authorities she would “gladly accept any punishment you give me,” she continued defiantly, “but I will

not apologize for what I have done, I will not regret it, and I would definitely do it again if I had to.” In subsequent discussion, Whitney described how reality and rhetoric clashed in Hamilton’s classroom. “He kept saying he’d much rather eat one of these chickens than one raised by Tyson,” she told the *Salina Journal*, “but I really didn’t see much difference. They were really packed in [their cages], with barely room to move.”

Whitney wrote in her letter to the school, “So yes I have, in fact, become attached to Chicklett, and could not participate in his death. If you cannot understand my perspective, let me put it in perspective for you. If you have a pet at home that you love dearly... and someone throws your pet in a cage with three or five others, and says in five weeks you are to cut off the pet’s head, pull off the pet’s fur, clean out all the guts, bag and freeze the meat, and take it home for your family to enjoy, what would you do? Would you not do everything in your power to keep a loved one safe? Are pets not loved ones?”

“So, please do not judge what I did on the grounds of stupidity and bad behavior, but on the grounds of love and empathy for another living being. I have raised my chicken, I will not kill him, but skipping the killing wasn’t enough. I had to save him.”

Whitney Hillman was not a vegetarian prior to the program at Concordia High School, which was one of those that was called a Broiler Project. She no longer eats animals. She once wanted to become a zoologist, but is now considering a career in animal advocacy. Whitney’s verbal skills and moral courage would be tremendous assets for animals, and it should be noted that while Whitney was the only student brave enough

SHARK vs. Wing Pointe pigeon shoots

HAMBURG, Pennsylvania—Showing Animals Respect and Kindness will try again to find a way to pursue legal action against pigeon shoots at the Wing Pointe resort in Hamburg. SHARK founder Steve Hindi told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on December 6, 2010, after rescuing 21 wounded pigeons from a “dead” pile following a shoot the day before.

SHARK in November 2010 found three surviving pigeons in the same heap, “but Berks County district attorney John Adams, who has received campaign donations from pigeon shooters, has so far killed any attempt to have cruelty citations filed against pigeon shoots,” Hindi said.

SHARK campaigns have previously ended pigeon shooting at several other Pennsylvania locations. In 1993 SHARK won a ban on pigeon shooting in the state of Illinois.

to defy her teacher’s instructions to kill, she spoke for others who sadly petted their chickens goodbye and didn’t want to slaughter them, but felt they had no choice. It should also be noted that Whitney is blessed with parents who helped her save Chicklett, and who totally support her.

United Poultry Concerns promotes compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl. To learn more about UPC, please visit www.upc-online.org.

To learn more about Kaporos and the campaign to replace chickens with non-animal symbols of atonement, visit www.EndChickensAskaporos.com.

To learn more about high school chicken slaughter projects and the effort to replace them with humane education, visit www.upc-online.org/classroom/.

“Money is an acceptable substitute for a chicken,” explains Hasidic rabbi Yonassam Gershon

Washington Post photojournalist Carol Guzy in her October 9, 2010 coverage of Kaporos mentioned that the participants “cover the blood” of the chickens they kill as a purported sign of respect for victims. This has occasioned question about what covering the blood means, and why it is part of the Kaporos ritual.

Blood from sacrificial animals offered in the Jerusalem Temple was considered sacred and was either sprinkled in various ceremonial ways, or poured into a container or a depression in the earth at the base of the altar, depending on the specific sacrifice being offered.

Eating or drinking the blood was absolutely forbidden, as stated in Leviticus 17. Thus the blood had to be disposed of respectfully in some other manner. The blood of wild animals killed in a hunt or trapped, presumably by non-Jews living among Jews, since Jews do not hunt as a rule, was drained onto the ground and covered. These animals were not considered to have been sacrificed.

However, the Kaporos ceremony is not really a sacrifice either, for at least two reasons: there can be no sacrifices offered outside the Jerusalem Temple, which no longer exists; and a chicken is not a permissible species to offer as a sacrifice in any case.

In the past, the Kaporos chicken was simply the bird whom the participants in the ritu-

al would be having for dinner anyway, just before the Yom Kippur fast begins, or would donate to a local poor family.

In *stetl* (village) life, people normally had chickens around, and there would most likely be free-ranging chickens running loose in the village. A person would simply catch one of the family’s own chickens, or buy a chicken from a nearby neighbor, then personally take the chicken to be slaughtered— which usually meant walking maybe across the town square. There was no trucking in birds from hundreds of miles away and letting them go hungry and thirsty in cages for days, heaven forbid.

So Kaporos is not really a form of sacrifice per se. And this would probably be why the blood was covered, as with a hunted animal, to reinforce that this is *not* a Temple sacrifice.

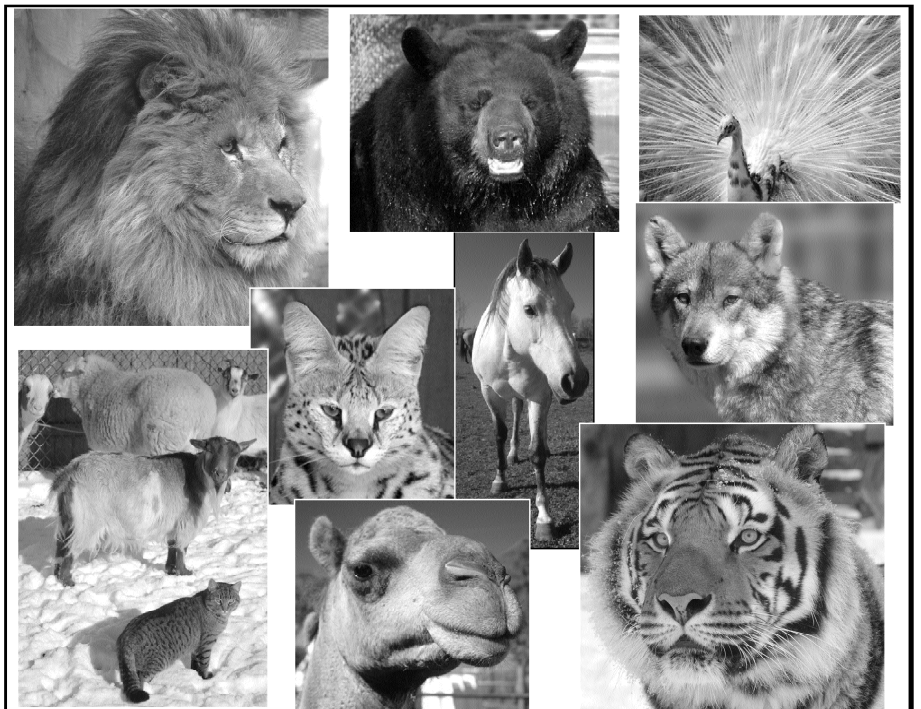
Kaporos today is done completely out of the context of village life and in a very wasteful, inhumane way that in my opinion, negates any spiritual value of the ceremony. It is axiomatic in Judaism that you cannot commit a sin in order to do a mitzvah, so causing undue suffering to animals, which is forbidden, would invalidate any legitimate use of the animal even if permitted, in my opinion. In many cases it is not even clear if the meat is ever delivered to the poor or even used by anyone.

Money is an acceptable substitute for using a chicken. I use money.

Rabbi Yonassan Gershon is author of *49 Gates of Light: A Course in Kabbalah*, *Jewish Themes in Star Trek*, *Eight Candles of Consciousness: Essays on Jewish Nonviolence*, and *Beyond the Ashes & From Ashes to Healing*.

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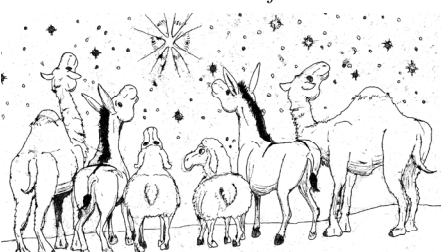
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—Brien Comerford



Coffee fad revives civet farming, nearly ended by SARS *(from page 1)*

occasional reach of the merely affluent—at prices of from \$50 to \$100 a cup.

The continued existence of a wild civet coffee industry and the existence of some free-range civet farms allows consumers to believe that the civet coffee they drink is not factory farmed, that the civets who ingest and excrete the beans will not eventually be sold to slaughter at live markets, and that their pelts will not go into the fur trade.

Sometimes this may be true. As the civet coffee industry grows, however, and competition for the fast-expanding market increases, consumers have less and less way to be sure of knowing exactly where their beans have been.

Recalled Animals Asia Foundation founder Jill Robinson in a November 2010 posting to the Asia Animal Protection Network, “Someone sent me a packet of civet coffee beans last year. Our then-animal welfare director Mark Jones, now with Care For the Wild, kindly did some research.” The company that sold the civet coffee beans “claimed to use only beans collected from wild civets, and that most of the profits go to a civet conservation project in Vietnam. Naturally this causes concern that others less ethical might cash in on the established market and farm the civets.”

“Growing demand is fueling a gold rush in the Philippines and Indonesia,” reported *New York Times* correspondent Norimitsu Onishi in April 2010. “Harvesters are scouring forest floors in the Philippines. In Indonesia, where the coffee has a long history, enterprising individuals are capturing civets and setting up mini-farms.”

Civet dung collectors Alberto Patog, 60, and his son, Lambert, 20, of the Cordillera district in the Philippines, “wished they could expand their business but said there were not enough civets around,” Onishi wrote. “Local residents still prize civets less for coffee-picking ability than for meat.”

The Patogs are among about 20 collectors who sell the defecated coffee beans they find to Vie Reyes of Manila, who founded her company, Bote Central, about five years ago. Reyes told Onishi that she only buys coffee beans from wild civets, but that limits her ability to compete to fill the rising demand—and leaves more market share to the fast-expanding farmers.

Sumatran civet farmer Mega

Kurniawan, 28, in business just two years, already had 102 civets at three locations when Onishi visited. Each civet produces just over five pounds of “processed” coffee beans per month. “During the day,” Onishi wrote, “Kurniawan’s civets sleep inside small wooden cages before growing active at dusk. At night, the animals eat from fresh plates of coffee cherries, replenished every two hours, or pace at a brisk, caffeinated clip.”

A neighbor, Ujang Suryana, 62, “has found a way to increase the civets’ output exponentially by mechanically stripping the coffee beans from the cherries and mixing them in a banana mash,” Onishi continued. “The civets gobble it up. This way, no beans are wasted. He has raised their dung production from 2.2 pounds a week to a whopping 6.6 pounds a day.”

The Association of Indonesian Coffee Luwak Farmers, formed in 2009, does not appear to work with any recognized humane organization to maintain high animal care standards, but does try to counter growing concern—including elsewhere in Southeast Asia—that civet coffee farms are operating like civet meat and fur farms.

Trung Nguyen

“On our Sumatran civet farm, located in Lampung province, civets are kept in cages at night but allowed to roam protected courtyards during the day, where they can forage for coffee beans hidden for them to find by the farmers,” asserts the Vietnamese coffee company Trung Nguyen, describing the inverse of the normal activity cycle of civets, normally a nocturnal species. “The farmer selects beans for the civet to eat,” Trung Nguyen continues. “The civets become quite tame and can be handled and accept treats from their caretaker’s hands. Their population is preserved by the farm’s breeding programs.”

Trung Nguyen also sells Bantai civet coffee. “This environmentally and ethically sound coffee comes from the Julia Campbell Agro-Forest Memorial Park in the Philippines,” the Trung Nguyen web site says. “The park shelters the rare Philippines civet,” *Paradoxorus Philippinensis*, “and is also home to native people who live in communion with the civets and their forest. Purchase of this coffee supports the maintenance and expansion of the park, as well as protection for the endangered civets and the preservation

of the indigenous tribal community of Asiput...Bantai coffee civets live in an organic preserve and no non-organic coffee grows within their range.”

Though Trung Nguyen courts expanded sales abroad, the company primarily produces for domestic consumption—and Vietnamese consumers get a different brew.

In Hanoi, “Trung Nguyen Weasel Coffee sells on every street corner,” reports Kairos Coalition founder Robert Lucius. “My sense is that it is more of a label than the actual product of civets. Friends told me civet coffee was available in Hanoi but in three years it has remained elusive. The price for Trung Nguyen’s version certainly belies its rarity.”

According to the web site PoopCoffee.com, “The Trung Nguyen Coffee Company hired a German scientist to research the chemical processes that occur in the civet’s stomach. In 1996 scientists were able to isolate six specific digestive enzymes and then use these enzymes to create a synthetic soak known as Legendée, which they patented. Two varieties of Legendée coffee are offered. Legendée Gold simulates civet coffee from Arabica coffee beans. Legendée Classic simulates the civet coffee that comes from a mix of coffee bean varieties including Arabica, Robusta, Liberica, and Excelsa.

“Other companies market other products that are sold as simulated civet coffee,” PoopCoffee.com continues. “Some of these are created by adding flavorings to coffee beans. Several other animals besides civets have been used to produce this type of coffee. One animal used in Malaysia and Indonesia is the barking deer,” or muntjac. Coffee produced by gathering beans from muntjac droppings is known as kopi muntjak or kopi muncak. Virtually all kopi muntjak is gathered in the wild.”

Factory civet farms

Despite civet coffee industry efforts to promote the images of beans collected from the wild and tame civets who eat from farmers’ hands, contrary observations are frequent.

“The Bali Animal Welfare Association received two reports this week,” BAWA founder Janice Girardi e-mailed on November 20, 2010, “from tourists who were taken on buses to coffee houses here in Bali that not only served kopi luwak but had cages where civets were kept just for viewing. The tourists were upset that the cages were too small and the animals obviously distressed.”

Photographer Kemal Jufri illustrated Onishi’s *New York Times* article with a close-up of a miserable-looking civet standing on a wire floored cage on the second floor of a grim structure resembling a prison.

This was the reality of civet farming that the Chinese federal health ministry addressed on November 2, 2004, banning the slaughter and cooking of civets for human consumption to promote “civilized eating habits,” the state-run *Beijing Daily* reported.

About 10,000 captive civets were slaughtered, beginning 10 days after the health ministry received data showing that 70%

of the captive civets in Guangdong province had tested positive for SARS. Wild civets appeared to be unaffected. Though horseshoe bats rather than civets are believed to be the host species for SARS, and the captive civets were apparently infected by human contact, civets are capable of transmitting SARS back to people.

The Chinese prohibition of civet consumption was stringently enforced for several years in Guangdong. Seven thousand health inspectors in January 2007 visited 10,000 Guangdong restaurants, finding just one live civet and several frozen civet carcasses. But Guangzhou Forestry Public Security Bureau commissar Chen Xibiao alleged to Ivan Zhai of the *South China Morning Post* that civet farming continued in Hubei and Shanxi provinces, to the north. As the Chinese government is encouraging rapid expansion of the coffee industry in Yunnan, to the southwest, there is the possibility that civet coffee could soon be produced in China as a lucrative export product.

Civet fur

Then-U.S. Health & Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson in mid-2004 halted imports of either live or dead civets, plus civet parts, such as civet pelts, but exempted products “processed to render them noninfectious.” Though this exemption allowed the import of civet coffee, the purpose of it was apparently to allow continued imports of finished civet fur garments.

Civet fur hit the U.S. and European markets in abundance in fall 2003, coinciding with the Chinese civet ranching boom that preceded the SARS pandemic. As the connection between SARS and civets emerged, the fur was said to be from “Lipi cats” and “genottes,” the French and Italian spelling of “genet.” Taxonomists recognize genets and civets as different branches of a closely related family.

Meat and fur sales are secondary revenue sources for civet coffee producers.

“Because civet coffee pulls in money, I imagine civets will be exploited to get it,” opined Primates for Primates founder Lynette Shanley from Australia, where civet coffee has come into vogue among trendy thrill-seekers. “But realistically civet coffee is very expensive, so I think that will stop it from becoming an everyday luxury item. Civet coffee will only appeal to some, and then even among those who can afford it once in a while there will be people who find it revolting, as it has been through the civets’ digestive tracts. Hopefully,” Shanley said, “civet coffee will be a short-lived trend.

But civet coffee has already been consumed in Indonesia for centuries.

Rudy Widjaja, 68, whose family has operated the Warung Tinggi coffee store in Jakarta since 1881, told Onishi of *The New York Times* that civet coffee was popular with the Dutch, who ruled most of Indonesia from circa 1650 to 1950, and with the Japanese troops who occupied Indonesia during World War II. After that, though, Warung Tinggi did not again sell civet coffee until 2007.

—Merritt Clifton

Minnesota Valley Humane Society disbands

BURNSVILLE—The Minnesota Valley Humane Society, founded in 1981, is to close and disband at the end of 2010, board chair Cathy McCoy announced in a December 2, 2010 news release. The society claimed 450 volunteers and to have rehomed more than 50,000 animals, including 1,927 in 2009.

Despite raising more than \$1 million in 2008, the Minnesota Valley Humane Society lost nearly \$200,000. In 2009, reported the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, “The society sold its Burnsville building, which it

said was too small,” and agreed to pay \$925,000 for a new location in Eagan, planning to spend \$1 million more on renovations. Instead, rising costs and falling income caused the society to quit doing animal sterilizations in October 2009, and to close to the public on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Remaining funds will be “used to settle the organization’s remaining financial obligations and assist with contingency plans for employees and transitions for shelter animals,” said McCoy.

New Mexico wild horse & chimp refuge plans falter

ALBUQUERQUE—New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson scrambled as his term ended to save his September 2010 initiatives to create sanctuaries for wild horses and chimpanzees.

Richardson on September 17, 2010 announced a plan to use \$2.9 million in federal economic stimulus money to add the former Ortiz Mountain Ranch to Cerrillos Hills State Park, 20 miles south of Santa Fe, turning it into the largest wild horse sanctuary in the world.

“The acquisition needs the approval of the state Board of Finance,” explained *Albuquerque Journal* staff writer Thomas J. Cole. “A board vote was postponed on November 16 for the third time. The board is to meet only one other time—on December 21—before Richardson leaves office. If the ranch purchase is approved on December 21, that would leave only a few working days to close the deal before Governor-elect Susana Martinez takes office on January 1, 2011. Martinez has said the ranch acquisition would be ‘inexcusable’ given the tough economic times. Even if the Richardson administration is able to purchase the land

before year’s end, Martinez could use her authority to thwart development of the horse sanctuary.”

The Richardson plan was further jeopardized when the U.S. Bureau of Land Management estimated that the ranch has carrying capacity for only 20 to 30 horses to live in a fully wild state. The BLM is presently holding about 25,000 horses who have been removed from public lands.

Richardson on November 18, 2010 complained to the USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service that the National Institutes of Health will be violating the federal Animal Welfare Act if 186 chimps are moved from the Alamogordo Primate Facility near Albuquerque to the Southwest National Primate Research Center in San Antonio. The chimps, formerly used in biomedical research but now all unofficially “retired” for about 10 years, are due to be relocated by the NIH when a contract for their care with Charles River Laboratories expires at the end of 2010.

A clause of the Animal Welfare Act states that “If a nonhuman primate is obviously ill, injured or in physical distress, it must not be

transported in commerce, except to receive veterinary care for the condition.”

Richardson contends that the soon-to-be-closed Alamogordo Primate Facility should become a chimp retirement sanctuary.

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Smaller Japanese fleet & bigger Sea Shepherd fleet sail toward *Whale Wars IV*

TOKYO, HOBART—The Japanese whaling fleet sailed on December 2, 2010 to kill whales in Antarctic waters declared off limits by the International Whaling Commission since 2004. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society fleet sailed the same day for a seventh winter of trying to stop the whalers, and a fourth winter of hosting the Animal Planet crew that produces the documentary hit series *Whale Wars*.

"The Japanese whaling fleet traditionally departs by November 19 and returns in April," the Environmental News Service reported, "but this year will conduct a shortened hunt with fewer vessels. During the 2009-10 season," ENS continued, "the Japanese fleet included a factory ship, three harpoon ships, a supply ship and two security patrol vessels. But the support vessel *Hiyo Maru #2*, which fueled the fleet and transported frozen

whale meat back to Japan, was scrapped in September. Two ships that previously did whale sightings have been sold or scrapped."

"This year, the Japanese whaling program will not have enough catchers to kill the usual number of whales and will not have enough onboard freezer space to store the meat," Greenpeace Japan oceans campaigner Wakao Hanaoka told ENS. Japan already has more than a year's worth of whale meat in storage, Hanaoka added.

The Sea Shepherd fleet this winter

includes the *Steve Irwin*, under founder Paul Watson, and the *Bob Barker*, under Alex Cornelissen, both used in past anti-whaling campaigns; the long-range pontoon-equipped helicopter *Nancy Burnet*; and the *Gojira [Godzilla]*, captained by Locky Maclean. Launched as the *Cable & Wireless Adventurer*, the *Gojira* set a record for powered craft in 1998 by circling the world in 74 days.

That record was broken in 2008 by the *Ady Gil*, a vessel of similar appearance but half as long. The bow of the *Ady Gil* was

sliced off on January 6, 2010 by the whale-catcher *Shonan Maru #2*. The aft portion of the *Ady Gil* was towed for two days by the *Bob Barker* before being scuttled.

Maritime New Zealand, the agency that enforces New Zealand maritime safety, reported on November 16, 2010 that both the *Shonan Maru #2* captain and *Ady Gil* builder/captain Pete Bethune "were responsible for either contributing to, or failing to respond to the 'close quarters' situation that led to the collision."

Animal welfare language added

GENEVA, SCHAMBERG—The International Organization for Standardization and American Veterinary Medical Association have added language strengthening recognition of animal welfare to their governing documents.

ISO 26000, a standard issued in November 2010 to define social responsibility, states that socially responsible organizations "respect the welfare of animals, when affecting their lives and existence, including by providing decent conditions for keeping, breeding, producing, transporting and using animals."

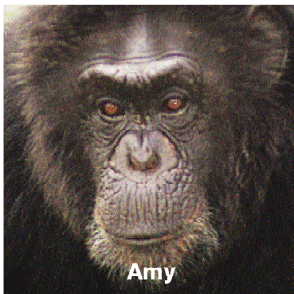
The AVMA added the words "and welfare" to the Veterinarian's Oath, taken by U.S. veterinary school graduates. The oath now reads: "Being admitted to the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health and welfare, the prevention and relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge."

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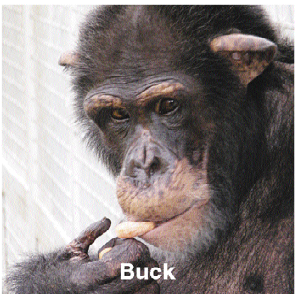
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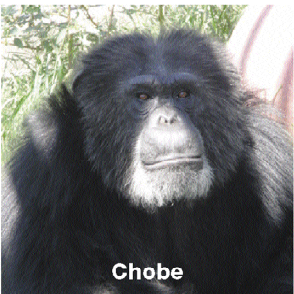
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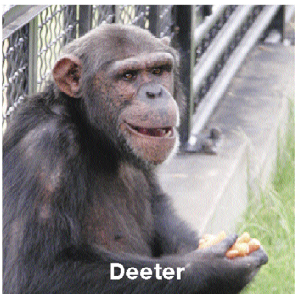
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Buck



Chobe



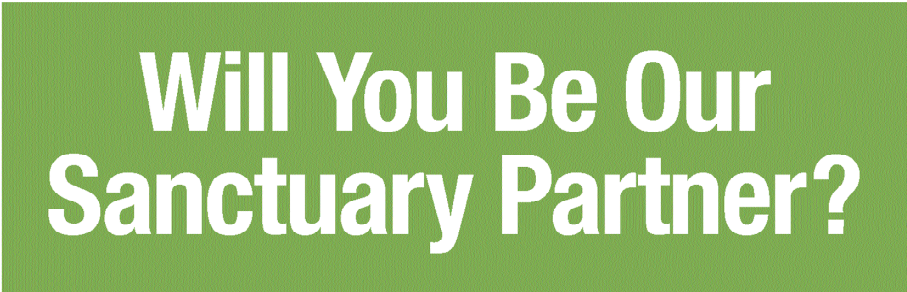
Deeter



Grace



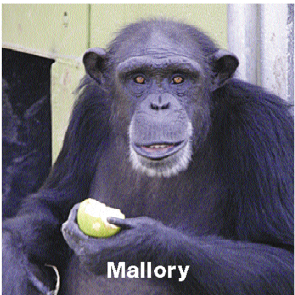
Harry



Hope



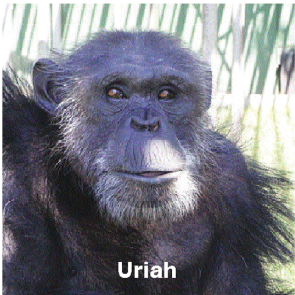
Jewel with Baby Grace



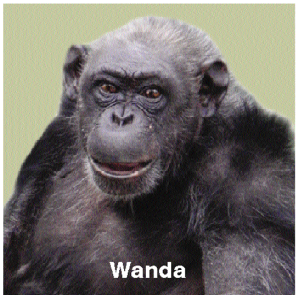
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Birders push shooting feral cats (continued from page 1)

euthanasia, kill-trapping, and shooting should also be considered.” in place of neuter/return to control feral cat populations.”

“Place shots between the eyes,” Hildreth, Vantassel, and Hygnstrom continued. “When this is not possible, a shot through the heart/lung area is acceptable...Padded jaw foothold traps can also be used to capture feral cats...Body-gripping traps and snares can be used to quickly kill feral cats...Shooting is an efficient method to reduce populations of cats in specific areas,” Hildreth, Vantassel, and Hygnstrom reiterated. “Use shotguns with #6 shot or larger, .22-caliber rifles, or air rifles capable of shooting 700 feet per second.”

The ABC emphasized the Hildreth, Vantassel, and Hygnstrom claim that feral cats kill 480 million birds per year, four times more than the estimate of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service senior biologist Albert Manville.

Hildreth, Vantassel, and Hygnstrom reckoned that cat predation on birds costs the U.S. economy \$17 billion per year, assuming that each bird is worth \$30, birders spend 40¢ per bird seen, and bird hunters spend \$216 per shotgun blast fired, and would shoot more birds if cats did not kill them first.

“Apparently the idea is that killing cats saves birds so hunters can shoot them,” said Best Friends Animal Society senior management Holly Sizemore.

Hildreth, Vantassel, and Hygnstrom based their estimates in part on fallacious claims by some feral cat advocates that there are 60 million feral cats in the U.S., nearly

four times the highest recent data-based estimate and half again higher than any data-based estimate, and that “a pair of breeding cats and their offspring can produce over 400,000 cats in seven years under ideal conditions.”

ANIMAL PEOPLE and Wall Street Journal “Numbers Guy” columnist Carl Bialik in 2007 traced the latter number back to a calculator logarithm of dog reproduction used by the Animal Protection Institute in a January 1968 press release. It mysteriously picked up a zero by 1973, and about a decade later picked up another zero when first applied to cats. As mammals in real life have a maximum rate of sustained reproductive capacity of about 33% population growth per year, if the habitat supports the increase, one female cat and her offspring, with normal mortality for outdoor cats, might actually produce 14 surviving cats after seven years.

The Hildreth, Vantassel, and Hygnstrom report “is basically a summary of previous studies, some inaccurately quoted and others extrapolated to reach wildly exaggerated conclusions,” responded Alley Cat Allies president Becky Robinson. “Still, this is not just an issue of science, but also of ethics. The fact that this report—based on no conclusive or reliable data—could be used to justify shooting cats is disturbing and offensive. Time and again research shows that killing feral cats to manage the population is cruel and useless. To actually advocate shooting cats is outrageous and in direct opposition to our values as a society.

“As animal advocates,” Robinson said, “Alley Cat Allies supports policies that are in the best interest of all animals, including birds. That means taking a hard look at the real threats to wildlife—habitat destruction and pollution foremost among them—and changing how our choices impact our environment. Killing cats is no solution.”

“The authors say that the public’s participation will play a pivotal role in the effective management of feral cats,” said Sizemore. “We couldn’t agree more with them on that point. The public will not tolerate the cruel methods advocated here to address controlling free-roaming cat populations, particularly when there is a humane solution.”

Haj & Eid abuses exposed again

Live transport, crude amateur slaughter at the November 16, 2010 celebration of the Eid “Feast of Sacrifice,” slaughter in front of children, poor animal welfare leading to the spread of disease—including the often deadly tick-borne Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever—and misuse of the Haj pilgrimage to Mecca as a cover for wildlife trafficking all came to light in 2010 post-Haj reportage. The most encouraging sign of change may have been simply that much of the critical reportage was done by leading media in Islamic nations.

Public officials repeatedly appealed during the Haj season for more humane and safer ritual slaughter.



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EU vs. puppy mills & cosmetic mutilation

BRUSSELS—Moving to regulate puppy mills, promote pet identification, and to prohibit devocalization, declawing, ear-cropping, and tail-docking, the Council of the European Union on November 29, 2010 formally asked the European Commission to “study the differences between the measures taken by the member states regarding the breeding of and EU trade in dogs and cats and, if appropriate, to prepare policy options for the harmonization of the internal market.”

The Council resolution called upon the European Commission to present “options for facilitating compatible systems of identification and registration of dogs and cats; a specific proposal to restrict the exhibition of dogs and cats having undergone a non-curative surgical intervention (not aimed at preventing reproduction) and the trade in these animals; to promote and support education concerning responsible dog and cat ownership, and to support national information campaigns on the negative impact of non-curative surgical interventions on the welfare of dogs and cats.”

The Council noted similar recommendations made by the Organization for Animal Health (known by the French acronym OIE), the Council of Europe, and as a part of the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare, promoted by the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

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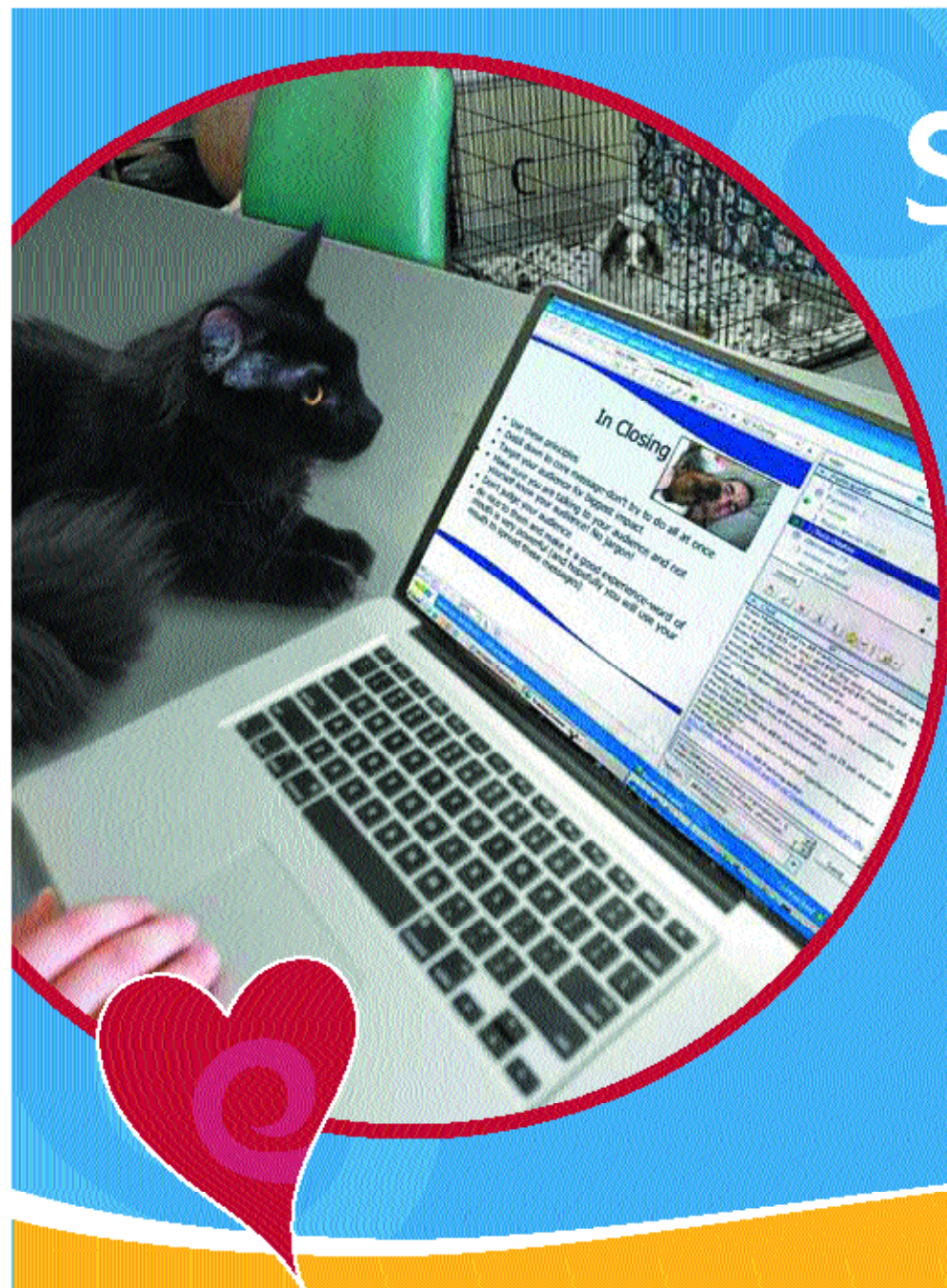
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The DNR allows breeders to produce hooved stock for sale to hunting ranches, but in 2005 then-DNR director Kyle Hupfer issued an emergency rule prohibiting hunting of hooved animals behind fences. The DNR defended the rule against legal challenges, and were partially vindicated in 2009 by an outbreak of bovine tuberculosis among captive-raised deer at sites in Franklin and Warren County, and a shooting preserve in Harrison County.

—Merritt Clifton

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South African Supreme Court overturns 2007 ministerial ruling against hunting captive lions

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa—Lions will continue to be killed in put-and-take “canned hunts” in South Africa, the South African Supreme Court of Appeal ordained on November 29, 2010, reversing a February 2007 edict by then minister of environmental affairs Marthinus van Schalkwyk that captive-bred lions had to be returned to the wild for two years before they could be hunted.

“No doubt the minister was entitled to take account of the strong opposition and even revulsion expressed by a substantial body of public opinion to the hunting of captive bred lions,” wrote Judge Jonathan A. Heher, ruling on behalf of the South Africa Predator Breeders’ Association. “But in providing an alternative,” Heher continued, “he was bound to rely on a rational basis. The evidence proves he did not do so.”

“The National SPCA was devastated,” responded NSPCA public information officer Christine Kuch. “The NSPCA believes that the breeding of predators in captivity for hunting should never have been allowed in the first place. The industry has been allowed to grow significantly since 1997 when the issue first made international headlines. Lack of adequate legislation in this regard and issuing of permits to allow keeping and breeding lions has contributed to the problem.”

“This ruling puts canned hunting right back on the agenda,” said the Cape Town office of the International Fund for Animal Welfare in a prepared statement.

NSPCA wildlife unit manager Brenda Santon estimates that there are about 4,000 captive lions in South Africa. About 300 per year are shot—about 30% of the total killed by

trophy hunters throughout Africa, reported Antony Sguazzin and Nicky Smith for *Bloomberg News*. Only in Tanzania are more lions killed.

“Most lion hunting is done by foreign tourists,” Sguazzin and Smith continued, “who on average pay about \$22,000 to shoot one of the cats. A further \$18,000 is generated in the form of safari costs and the price of having a lion stuffed for shipment back to the hunter’s home, according to court documents. Lions bred for hunting are often shot after just a few days in the wild. In captivity they are mostly fed on donkey meat bought from rural communities. After their release from breeding cages they catch and eat game that the farmers have acquired for their estates,” also usually from captive-raised stock.

12 years for dragging horse

SAN JUAN, P.R.—Georgen Lopez, 24, the first person to be convicted at a jury trial under the Puerto Rican felony cruelty law passed in August 2008, was in November 2010 sentenced to serve 12 years in prison for dragging a mare behind a truck.

“Judge Jose Montijo told Lopez he had an attitude problem, did not communicate well with people, and noted that the accused faced burglary and drug charges previously,” wrote Danica Coto of Associated Press.

Defense attorney Julian Claudio pledged to appeal the sentence. Puerto Rican bar association president Osvaldo Toledo called the length of the sentence a dangerous precedent, and said he would seek legislative review of the penalties provided by the law.

Surviving the dragging, the mare now lives at a sanctuary in northeastern Puerto Rico.

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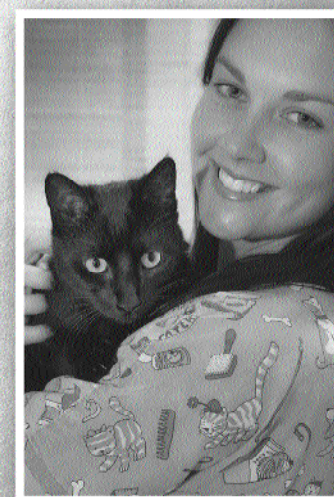
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Whole Foods introduces multi-tiered animal welfare certification *(from 1)*

mostly overlap the standards required for the Certified Humane label program administered by Humane Farm Animal Care and the Animal Welfare Certified program created by the Animal Welfare Institute. The standards of the American Humane Certified program run by the American Humane Association are inconsistent with those of the other programs, but appear to be mostly in the GAP middle range.

There are differences among the programs, however, including in guiding philosophy. The Animal Welfare Certified program, for instance, excludes corporate farmers. Thus, though the Animal Welfare Certified label has attracted three times more users than the Certified Humane and American Humane Certified labels for farm products, the Animal Welfare Certified label appears to hold far less market share and has little chance of directly influencing most major animal producers, almost all of which are corporate.

A leading concern of Adele Douglass, who founded the AHA program and then founded HFAC to pursue stricter standards three years later, and of Cathy Liss, who founded Animal Welfare Certified, is that consumers may perceive any level of GAP certification as being equivalent to the higher GAP levels and to AWC and Certified Humane, with the possible net effect of undercutting AWC and Certified Humane progress.

This concern is shared by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** president Kim Bartlett. “My perception,” she said, “is that meat consumers don’t want to know the details of the animal’s life and death. If a product has any sort of animal welfare certification, that will be enough information for them. If consumers are interested in the differences between five or more steps, they are likely to not buy meat at all. I worry that having so many different animal welfare labels will just confuse the public and for the most part assuage their consciences, and meanwhile the industry will not have a lot of incentive to make meaningful change.”

A further question is whether Whole Foods consumer behavior, even if favoring higher animal welfare by paying higher prices for higher-rated meats, will be mirrored in the mainstream marketplace. The upscale Whole Foods clientele pay higher prices for perceived higher quality in buying any product—but people on tight budgets tend to shop elsewhere.

Initially developed for Whole Foods and tested for six years in Whole Foods stores, the GAP system is based on standards originally drafted for Whole Foods by Colorado State University livestock handling expert Temple Grandin, whose career was documented in the Home Box Office film *Temple Grandin*, winner of five Emmy Awards in August 2010.

Miyun Park, GAP executive director since September 1, 2009, in 1997 cofounded the farmed animal advocacy group Compassion Over Killing. CoK rose to prominence in 2003-2006 by successfully challenging the veracity of the United Egg Producers “Animal Care Certified” program in appeals to the Council of Better Business Bureaus, National Advertising Review Board, and Federal Trade Commission. Park was later vice president for farm animal welfare for the Humane Society of the U.S. and Humane Society International.

The GAP board includes Mackey, who recently retired as Whole Foods board chair; Whole Foods global vice president of quality standards Margaret Wittenberg; HSUS president Wayne Pacelle; World Society for the Protection of Animals director general

Mike Baker; Compassion in World Farming director of public affairs Joyce D’Silva; PETA corporate consultant Steven Gross, and three representatives of organic agribusiness.

The evolution of the Whole Foods standards into GAP began, Mackey told Amanda Griscom Little of *Grist* in 2004, when “After dialoguing with PETA, VIVA, Animal Rights International, and the Animal Welfare Institute, we decided that our existing standards for humane animal treatment were not rigorous enough. We began a process of working with these groups and our producers to develop standards species by species.”

Mackey at the same time formed the Animal Compassion Foundation to administer the Whole Foods standards. The first Whole Foods standards were for ducks, followed by standards for sheep, pigs, and cattle raised for beef. The Whole Foods standards for ducks and sheep have not yet been adapted for use by GAP, which has focused on standards for the species most often raised to be slaughtered for human consumption. (Laying hens today are most often either slaughtered for animal consumption or macerated alive into fertilizer at the end of their productive lives.)

Fans & Critics

“Whole Foods has consistently done more for animal welfare than any retailer in the industry,” declared PETA, giving Mackey a “Proggy Award” in 2004. Visiting 200 stores in 34 states, WSPA found in 2008 and 2009 that Whole Foods suffered “twice as many humanely labeled products per store as the two companies tied for second.”

But animal rights attorney and author Gary Francione called a boycott of Whole Foods for selling products while purporting to be humane. Robert Ovetz of the Sea Turtle Restoration Project objected that Whole Foods, claiming to have stocked only turtle-safe seafood since 1999, does business with producers and agencies whose records are not all that they claim. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reader Irene Muschel, of New York City, wrote to object to Whole Foods’ sale of goose and duck liver patés, which technically are not *foie gras* because the birds are not force-fed.

“If you speak to the totally pure, you will cease to exist as a business,” Mackey told Little. “I made these decisions 25 years ago. My first store was called Safer Way. I opened it in 1978. It was a vegetarian store. We did \$300,000 in sales the first year. When we made the decision to open a bigger store, we made a decision to sell meat, seafood, beer, wine, and coffee. We didn’t think they were particularly healthy products, but we are a whole food store, not a holy food store.”

Difficult promise

“There will be no mutilations,” Mackey promised Little in 2004. “Most livestock animals are mutilated when they’re doing intensive living, and they have their beaks partially cut off and their toes amputated without any type of anesthesia. We’re forbidding that.” But Whole Foods and GAP have found Mackey’s promise hard to keep.

The GAP standards, below Step 5, allow that cattle and pigs may be castrated. Forbidding castration, however, may be impractical for all but upscale niche pig and cattle producers. “Boar taint” in pork may be avoided by slaughtering pigs before puberty, but that also requires slaughtering them before they approach the usual market weight for pigs

slaughtered for sale to mainstream consumers. Castrating bulls to produce steers is done to avoid fighting within herds, which would be inevitable in pasture or on the open range.

The GAP standards through Step 5 allow that young cattle may be dehorned by debudding, but GAP requires that herds be bred toward producing “polled” (hornless) cattle. Pigs’ tails may be docked if injured by tail-biting in a manner that might attract more biting, but GAP requires that tail-docking may not be done routinely and that the emphasis of producers must be on prevention.

The GAP standards for chickens raised for meat at all levels forbid any physical alteration, including beak trimming, but GAP has not yet issued standards for laying hens, the poultry who are most often debeaked.

Altogether the GAP entry level standards include more than 60 improvements for raising each species over agribusiness norms. The GAP requirements at Steps 1-3, including those for livestock transport, often echo industry recommendations, but the industry recommendations are rarely enforced by any supervisory body. As producers advance from Step 1 to Steps 5 and 5+, the top end of the GAP scale, they will have to accomplish more than 120 improvements over current norms.

“GAP’s 5-Step program is very different from pass/fail certification schemes such as Certified Humane and American Humane Certified,” Pacelle told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “While a step level in GAP’s multi-tiered system may have requirements that are below, equal to, or higher than a comparable requirement in a single-tiered program, the 5-Step design promotes continuous improvement.”

Corrected Park, “GAP’s 5-Step program is also pass/fail, but it differs in that producers can pass or fail at a number of different Step levels. One of our goals is to empower and facilitate producers to move up the welfare ladder. We’ve already seen this happening,” Park said, “with some producers making positive changes to reach a certain step level, and then making further improvements to move up to a higher step.

“Step 1 and, to a lesser degree, Step 2 are meant to engage producers,” Park said. “If we cannot engage a broad spectrum of producers and instead work only within the niche agricultural community,” who produce chiefly for specialty markets, “we won’t be able to help as many animals.”

“Unlike government regulation,” observed Monica Eng of the *Chicago Tribune*, “the GAP program is all carrot and no stick, offering entrepreneurs very specific credit for gradual improvements. In turn, they get access to Whole Foods’ customers. Whole Foods says that about 1,000 farms have been or are going through third-party GAP auditing, and a few hundred are awaiting the process. Most are small regional producers, but they also include big national names like Pennsylvania-based chicken producer Bell & Evans,” currently at Step 2, “and Niman Ranch pork producers,” a longtime participant in other animal welfare labeling schemes, “which are still in the auditing process.”

“This is the first time we get to see how much the public is willing to pay for specific practices,” PETA consultant and GAP board member Gross told Eng. “Let’s say I’m a meat eater and I think animals should live on pasture; I would buy a three and above. Or maybe I just want to make sure they don’t live in cages; I would buy a one or a two.”

Judgement calls

AWC is usually considered to have the highest certification standards, with HFAC having the highest standards that are accessible to corporate producers. But, said Park, “I respectfully disagree that HFAC and/or AWC’s requirements are more stringent than our higher Step levels. At Step 5+, we prohibit transportation,” Park pointed out, “requiring on-farm or local slaughter.” However, this also requires that the producer have a slaughterhouse or be very close to one, an almost impossible standard for producers in most of the U.S. to meet, especially in view of environmental quality laws which limit where new slaughterhouses may be built.

“I don’t see GAP as weaker, but it does operate in a different way,” said Pacelle. “5-Step is a program in development and is not comprehensive at this time. Rather than wait years to develop, test, and launch a full suite of multi-tiered standards that cover every aspect of production, GAP elected to roll-out standards in phases to more quickly help improve the welfare of animals. A two-year

pilot program with Whole Foods Market was recently completed during which [the first] three sets of GAP standards were tested and implemented. GAP is currently revising the original three sets of standards based on lessons from that pilot and new science; instituting a robust multi-stakeholder process, which includes public comment; and developing new sets of standards for egg-laying hens, turkeys, and sheep.”

The present GAP standards, unlike those of AHC, HFAC, and AWC, do not specify euthanasia methods for injured or ill animals, and do not address slaughter. “Revisions of current standards and development of new standards will address specific euthanasia and slaughter,” Pacelle promised.

A weakness of the GAP standards, Pacelle acknowledged, is that “There is no specific standard in GAP’s program that requires parasite prevention. However, other requirements found under sections for animal health, housing, feed, and outdoor conditions incorporate parasite prevention,” Pacelle said.

Unlike AHC, HFAC, and AWC, the GAP standards prohibit any use of antibiotics. “GAP does not allow the therapeutic administering of antibiotics for animals who are ultimately marketed as step-rated,” Pacelle said, “but for each set of standards, it is a requirement that any medication, including antibiotics, must be administered if prescribed by a veterinarian.” The GAP antibiotic rule means, in effect, that any antibiotic-treated animal must be sold outside the GAP system. This might be a disincentive for producers to seek treatment for infected animals.

Incorporated into the GAP standards at all levels are a requirement that farm dogs “must not be tethered.” Use of leghold or body-gripping traps to prevent predation is prohibited. Rodent infestation may not be controlled with glue traps.

“Which standards HSUS prefers is a tough question. The answer cannot be found just in the relative strength of the standards,” assessed Pacelle. “For me, a key issue is the potential for impact on animal welfare in the entire retail sector. With Whole Foods Market set to hit \$10 billion in total sales next year, that company itself provides an important marketplace for the GAP program.

“But ultimately, success will be determined if it can get picked up by other major retailers,” Pacelle said. “I believe GAP already has about 110 million animals under this program, and that is an incredible start. I see it ramping up in the coming months and years, as the program gets more shelf space, standards for more species are developed, and more stakeholders invest in it.”

Humane Certified

The next largest animal welfare certification program, HFAC, as of mid-2010 certified 54 producers, with 2009 output of 25 million animals. Certified Humane products are sold as an option for consumers in about 4,000 of the 230,000 supermarkets in the U.S., according to Douglass, far more than the 300 Whole Foods stores. American Humane Certified included 40 producers by mid-2010, with no identification of numbers of animals covered or stores served.

“I am tired of being David in the David and Goliath contest,” Douglass told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “I am tired of rumors that the Whole Foods GAP program is better than ours and that their standards are better. I have worked very hard over many years to have a program that makes a difference.”

“I applaud Adele Douglass for her tremendous leadership in this arena,” responded Pacelle. “She was a pioneer in this effort, and HSUS is proud to have played a key role in helping HFAC off the ground. We are still supportive of the program, as evidenced by HSUS executive vice president Andrew Rowan’s continued participation on the HFAC board. We see great value in what she and the entire HFAC operation are doing.”

Agribusiness beyond Whole Foods suppliers has been slow to comment on the GAP standards. But the GAP standards were quickly endorsed by the Hekhsheer Synagogue program, managed by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judasim and the Rabbinical Assembly. “The Hekhsheer Tzedek will indicate that a kosher product was made in compliance with social justice criteria, in keeping with the teachings of the Jewish faith,” explained the administrators. “Companies will be favored for the Hekhsheer if they adhere to [either] the GAP Step 5 standards or the HFAC standards.” —Merritt Clifton

Haj & Eid abuses exposed again *(from page 10)*

Since 2003 Lyn White of Animals Australia and a U.K.-based investigator have visited Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Jordan and Egypt, documenting conditions at feedlots, market places and abattoirs. This year,” Ward said, “some 800,000 Australian sheep were sent to the Middle East for the Eid—almost a quarter of Australia’s annual exports. The majority of these animals were brutally handled without any thought for their welfare,” Ward charged.

Observed White in November 2010 in Kuwait, “In the Shuwaikh abattoir trussed and terrified Australian sheep were dragged up the ramp into the slaughterhouse right in front of a Ministry of Livestock Australia sign saying ‘don’t drag animals.’

“Nothing had changed in the dreadful cattle slaughter area either. The streets of the Al Rai market on the morning of the Eid turned into a mass slaughter area,” White continued. “Australian sheep were bound with wire and shoved into car boots whilst others were dragged terrified on their stom-

achs amongst the dead and dying to have their throats cut.” White and Ward appealed for Australia to require that only frozen carcasses may be exported.

Lending emphasis to the White and Ward appeal, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service reported on October 24, 2010 that nearly 300 cattle out of 16,460 and 360 sheep out of 40,282 died from heat stress and related causes aboard the Wellard Rural Export vessel *MV Ocean Shearer* in February 2010. This was the first shipment of Australian livestock to Egypt following a suspension imposed in 2006 due to neglect of animal welfare both in transport and after arrival.

Arab News, published in Jeddah, Riyadh, and Dammam, Saudi Arabia, meanwhile reported that “The business of trading in animal skins, including skins of endangered creatures, was booming in the tent city of Mina,” during the 2010 Haj. The *Arab News* exposé drew attention to the lack of authority of Haj monitors to arrest traffickers and seize their merchandise.

YES! I'M AN ANIMAL PERSON!



—Wolf Clifton

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Is it “The great animal rights betrayal” or just business as usual in Britain?

LONDON—Is the Conservative-led British coalition government engaged in “The great animal rights betrayal,” as the newspaper *The Independent* alleged on November 13, 2010? Or has the transition from Labour to Conservative government changed nothing much, as representatives of several leading British animal welfare organizations told ANIMAL PEOPLE?

“In a series of little-noticed moves,” *The Independent* charged, “the coalition has scrapped or stalled Labour initiatives to improve animal welfare. Agriculture minister James Paice, who part-owns a farm in Cambridgeshire, has been behind most of the moves,” *The Independent* said. “Paice this week delayed by five years a ban on beak mutilations of laying hens due to come into force in January.

“Following lobbying from the Countryside Alliance and other shooting groups, Paice rewrote the new game-bird farming welfare code to remove a ban on keeping them in cages. The Department of the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, under Paice, “halted a series of prosecutions of abattoir operators based on secret footage which caught workers kicking cattle, pigs, and sheep,” contending that the prosecutions “would have failed because the footage had been obtained by trespass.”

Mistreatment of animals was reportedly found in six of seven slaughterhouses where operatives for Animal Aid placed hidden cameras. Prosecutions were begun against five of the six. While the cases were dropped, the Food Standards Agency recommended that routine video surveillance be undertaken in all 370 slaughterhouses in England, Scotland, and Wales. On November 18, 2010 the Morrisons supermarket chain announced that it will only buy meat from slaughterhouses where video surveillance is in place. Morrisons spokesperson Martyn Fletcher told *Independent* consumer affairs correspondent Martin Hickman that the video images will be stored for 30 days and made available to the

Food Standards Agency.

However, *The Independent* noted, “the government is reducing the presence of official veterinarians at livestock markets, to the concern of the British Veterinary Association. According to the BVA, Paice has also expressed doubt over plans to label kosher and halal meat from animals killed without being stunned.”

In addition, *The Independent* said, “The Department of the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs has been stalling on a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses, which Labour indicated in March it would introduce.

“Paice again pleased farmers and angered welfare groups by overturning Labour’s opposition to a badger cull,” charged *The Independent*, “and proposed that farmers trap or shoot the protected mammal in order to curb the spread of bovine tuberculosis, which can be spread by badgers. He downgraded vaccination research.

“Another Conservative proposal—to hold a free vote [in Parliament] on overturning the ban on fox hunting—will be fiercely opposed, *The Independent* noted. “Current concern, however, is greatest about the U-turns on farm animals because of the huge numbers involved.”

Farmed animals

Responded Compassion In World Farming chief policy advisor Peter Stevenson, “The Conservatives, the dominant members of the coalition government, are traditionally the farmers’ friend, yet it would be unfair to accuse them of being any worse than Labour on the welfare of farm animals. It would be wrong to say Paice is insensitive to animal welfare. Oddly, the mutilation of hen beaks is an issue on which I would give him half a tick in the box,” Stevenson continued. “The last government announced they would ban the practice in 2002 but failed to pressure the industry to comply. Paice has set a timetable for a ban, something Labour refused to do. Trimming hens’ beaks with hot blades will be

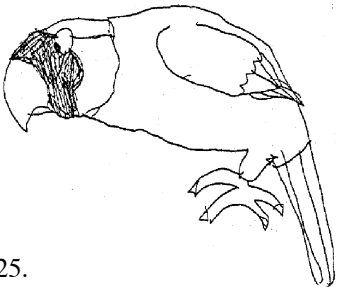
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banned next year; what will continue is trimming using infrared,” though “there is some scientific evidence that suggests infrared is just as painful. And it still causes distress,” Stevenson said, “because their natural behavior is to peck, which trimming prevents.

“The government believes—as did the previous government—that farmers are not ready to prevent feather pecking and cannibalism without beak trimming,” Stevenson elaborated to ANIMAL PEOPLE. “Our main concern is that the regulations that remove the ban do not set a new commencement date.” Paice “in his written statement to the House of Commons, gave 2016 as the ‘provisional date for the ban on routine beak trimming of laying hens,’” Stevenson noted. “We are immensely disappointed by this delay, but it is the previous government that is responsible for not having pushed the industry to prepare for the ban.”

Stevenson noted that neither the current government nor the previous government have opposed the introduction to Britain of “U.S.-style mega-dairies in which herds numbering in the thousands will be zero-grazed and pushed to very high milk yields.

“Cloning animals for food production has [also] become a major issue in the U.K. and the rest of the European Union,” Stevenson added. “Unfortunately our government has refused to oppose cloning, but neither did the previous government.”

Explained Royal SPCA director of communications David Bowles, “The Liberal Democrat/Conservative coalition government came to power with a negotiated package of what was in both parties’ manifestos pre the election.” Included were the pledge of a free vote on hunting with dogs; support of “scientific agreed ways of controlling tuberculosis in badgers,” which Bowles called “code for a cull”; a promise to revisit the 1986 Dangerous Dogs Act, which failed to curtail proliferation of fighting breeds because it banned “pit bulls” but not Staffordshire terriers; and support of sustainable agriculture, implying opposition to factory farming.

“In addition,” Bowles noted, “there were five topics passed on from the previous government.” Updating the Dangerous Dogs Act was one of the holdover topics. The others, Bowles said, were “what to do with animals in circuses; standards on the farming of game birds; standards on the farming of chickens, implementing a European Union directive; and implementing the EU law on use of animals in laboratories.

“At present,” despite the delayed prohibition of beak-trimming, “they have agreed to a better standard on chicken farming than other EU countries, a positive move, supported by the RSPCA and opposed by the farming industry,” Bowles continued. “They fully signed up to the EU ban on battery cages for laying hens due in 2012. They agreed to a standard on game bird rearing, which overturned the previous government’s commitment to ban battery cages for rearing game birds.

“They agreed to have a consultation on badger control, but no decision has been made yet. This will happen early in 2011.

“They have not yet called a free vote on hunting, as the votes are not in their favor, but will do so at some stage, as it is in the coalition agreement,” Bowles said. “They have yet to agree on what to do about circuses. They have not yet agreed what to do about dangerous dogs.

“I would say the picture is mixed,” Bowles assessed, “with positives on laying hens and chickens and negatives on game birds and badger culling.”

Dangerous Dogs Act

The most strongly supported proposed amendment to the Dangerous Dogs Act would require that all dogs be microchipped.

A House of Lords bill to more extensively amend the Dangerous Dogs Act is in committee, introduced by Liberal Democrat Peer Rupert Redesdale and endorsed by the trade periodical *Pet Industry News*, would repeal the breed-specific provisions, extend the ability of law enforcement to issue warnings for alleged dangerous dog behavior, and extend the application of the law to incidents occurring on private property.

But Bowles told ANIMAL PEOPLE, “I can confidently say that amending the Dangerous Dogs Act on breed-specific issues is not likely or on the government agenda. The RSPCA position is that ultimately we would like it amended,” Bowles said, “but in the short term this would not be politically expedient, not least from an enforcement side. The RSPCA believes that a preventive measure must be adopted with dangerous dogs,” Bowles elaborated. “The issue of fighting dogs is rising here, and going out of the traditional fighting communities, which is worrying, particularly as it is so closely tied up with status dogs and dangerous dogs.”

Said Dogs Trust chief executive Clarissa Baldwin, “Sadly it does not look as though the coalition government is going to do anything much for companion animals. The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has had their budget severely cut, including personnel. Indeed, with all the cuts, we may see a reduction in dog wardens too, so the situation could become much worse.”

Observed Mayhew Animal Home vice chair James Hogan, “I think it is fair to say that economic and financial woes have preoccupied most people here in recent months to such an extent that animal welfare has not received the same attention from either politicians or the media as in the past.”

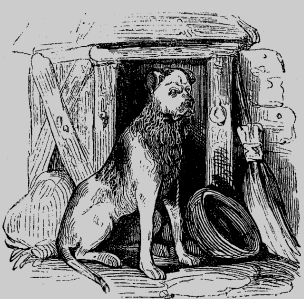
But Animal Aid director Andrew Tyler told *The Independent* that “There will be no let-up” in activism. “As we observe the dismal trajectory that this government seems to be headed in,” Tyler said, “we remain more determined than ever to carry on revealing abuse and exploitation, and to press for positive change.” —Merritt Clifton

New “crush video” bill sent to Obama

WASHINGTON D.C., BEIJING—U.S. President Barack Obama was expected to sign legislation reinstating a ban on the sale of “crush” videos “in the next week or so,” Humane Society Legislative Fund president Mike Markarian told ANIMAL PEOPLE near press time. The bill was approved by the House of Representatives on November 14, 2010, and by the Senate on November 19. It replaces a 1999 law struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in April 2010 as excessively broad. The 1999 bill was opposed by major journalism societies as a potential threat to news reportage, but most took no position on

the redrafted replacement bill. The new bill outlaws interstate distribution of videos showing “actual conduct in which one or more living animal is intentionally crushed, burned, drowned, suffocated, or impaled in a manner that would violate a criminal prohibition on cruelty to animals.” It exempts videos showing hunting, trapping, fishing, or any typical veterinary or agricultural husbandry practices.

As the new “crush” video bill was pending, Chinese internet activists identified and exposed a young woman who confessed to making such videos in 2007 and 2008 for intended distribution to western buyers.



The Watchdog

The Watchdog monitors fundraising, spending, and political activity in the name of animal and habitat protection—both pro and con. His empty bowl stands for all the bowls left empty when some take more than they need.

SPCA International is ordered to stop using <spca.com> domain name

MONTREAL—Quebec Superior Court Judge Louis Crete on November 19, 2010 ordered SPCA International to “immediately cease using and operating directly or indirectly” the web domain names <spca.com> and <spcamontreal.com>.

Judge Crete ruled that the Montreal SPCA, also known as the Canadian SPCA, “is the sole owner and/or exclusive user and registrant of the domain names,” which have been in dispute since March 2008.

As of December 4, 2010 entering the domain name <spca.com> in web browser programs still redirected the user to the SPCA International web site, <spcai.org>.

Pierre Barnoti, executive director of the Montreal SPCA from 1994 until July 2008, incorporated SPCA International in Delaware in 2006.

“Under the terms of the agreement, the parties reserve all their rights regarding damages resulting from the transfer by Barnoti of the domain name <spca.com> to SPCA International Inc. in March 2006,” explained the Montreal SPCA in a prepared statement. “The assessment of alleged damages by the Montreal SPCA will take place at a later date, once the required evidence has been produced for the court.”

Judge Crete in October 2009 allowed Barnoti to continue using the “SPCA.com” web address, but required that donations received through the site by SPCA International be

deposited into a trust fund, plus an additional \$50,000, pending his verdict as to who owns the <spca.com> domain name.

Barnoti was suspended in March 2008 by the Montreal SPCA board, and was fired in July 2008, after the Montreal SPCA was unexpectedly found to be \$4 million in debt. The debt was reduced to \$3 million during the next year.

The Montreal SPCA lawsuit against Barnoti, filed in October 2008, alleges that the Montreal SPCA “financed over the years maintenance and development costs and expenses of the web site <spca.com> without being reimbursed,” including “all the travel expenses of Barnoti to Europe and the U.S. to attend conventions and meetings, including a meeting in New York with Paul Irwin, a well known fundraiser, to discuss fundraising opportunities using the domain name and web site <spca.com>.” Barnoti allegedly began trying exploit the potential of the <spca.com> domain name as early as two years before actually forming SPCA International, according to exhibits attached to the Montreal SPCA lawsuit.

Irwin was vice president of the Humane Society of the U.S. from 1975 to 1996, and president from 1996 to 2004. He later headed the American Bible Society. Irwin introduced Barnoti to web developer Richard Gordon, whose firm Irwin employed at both HSUS and the American Bible Society. Barnoti hired Gordon to help launch SPCA International.

Reptile refuge downsizes after caiman deaths

SURREY, B.C.—Urban Safari Rescue Society and Cinemazoo Animal Agency founder Gary Oliver on November 23, 2010 agreed to reduce by about a third the number of animals housed at the former Rainforest Reptile Refuge.

The Urban Safari Rescue Society came under investigation by the British Columbia SPCA after three caimans died of suspected hypothermia.

BC/SPCA senior animal protection officer Eileen Drever told Tracy Holmes of the *Peace Arch News* that the BC/SPCA will accept about 25 snakes, gecko lizards, and turtles, mostly red-eared sliders. The BC/SPCA may kill those who cannot be placed with “approved rescues,” Drever said. “By order of the Ministry of Environment, 21 controlled alien species—including alligators and venomous snakes—are being donated to a facility in Drumheller, Alberta,” Holmes added.

Said Oliver, “I’m backed into a corner, without a doubt, for many reasons: for the circumstances of the facility not being adequate enough to house the animals, and not having enough volunteers or money.”

Lack of volunteers and money have handicapped the project from the beginning. Former Calgary Zoo and Edmonton Valley Zoo reptile caretaker Clarence Schramm and his wife, dairy hand turned animal advocate Christine Schramm, cofounded the Rainforest Reptile Refuge Society in a two-bedroom apartment in 1986. In 1992 they leased the present location, a former convenience store situated a mile north of the truck route border crossing between Blaine, Washington, and Surrey, British Columbia.

For the next eight years the Schramms lived in a travel trailer parked behind the building. Clarence Schramm subsidized the operation as a gardener at a nearby nursery; Christine Schramm was an around-the-clock curator, talking constantly

to the animals, who often startled visitors with their ability to recognize and respond to their names and basic commands.

Donations and sales of toys and t-shirts to visitors never came close to covering the cost of heating, animal food, and veterinary care, the Schramms told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. But they established a reputation for running one of the best herpetological rescue facilities in the world, and accommodated parrots as well, plus a few formerly feral cats and a pair of stray dogs who just wandered in and stayed.

The Schramms split in 2000. Revenue Canada filings show that Christine Schramm built revenues to \$123,461 by 2003, paying herself \$35,000, but operations cost \$135,896.

On departure Christine Schramm turned the Rainforest Reptile Refuge Society over to a committee of volunteers. Revenue fell to \$88,816 and \$92,339 during the next two years. For 2006 the Rainforest Reptile Refuge Society submitted a Charity Information Return including no financial figures. In September 2007 it closed to visitors. On December 13, 2008 the Revenue Canada Charities Directorate revoked the Rainforest Reptile Refuge’s charitable status due to failure to file a Charity Information Return.

Meanwhile Gary Oliver founded the Cinemazoo Animal Agency in 1988, exhibiting a variety of reptiles, birds, insects, and small mammals at “birthday parties, schools, petting zoos and information booths,” according to the Cinemazoo web site. As the Rainforest Reptile Refuge Society collapsed, Oliver in July 2007 formed the Urban Safari Rescue Society, with an entirely different board of directors, and eventually took over the Rainforest Reptile Refuge premises.

About 100 animals will remain at the refuge, Oliver told Holmes of the *Peace Arch News*, but it is not expected to reopen to visitors.

The American Bible Society dropped Gordon in May 2008 and did not renew Irwin’s contract, which expired in June 2008, after *New York Times* technology writer Brad Stone exposed Gordon’s role in facilitating credit card transactions for a Curacao-based operator of sexually explicit web sites.

SPCA International in 2008, the most recent year for which IRS Form 990 is available, had income of \$3.3 million, against expenses of \$5.8 million, including \$4 million (70%) for fundraising and administrative expense if a portion of these costs is allocated to program expense as “public education.” If not, 89% of the SPCA International expenses went to fundraising and administration.

Must repay gifts of stolen funds

ST. AUGUSTINE—Judas contributed his 30 pieces of silver toward the purchase of a potter’s field in which to bury the poor, and Robin Hood robbed from the rich to give to the poor, but charities accept donations of ill-gotten gains at their peril, according to U.S. courts.

In Florida, “Five nonprofits are under the gun to repay as Lydia Cladek is investigated in a Ponzi scheme said to have involved \$100 million in losses,” reported Don Scanlan of the *Florida Times Union* on November 6, 2010. “Among the returns sought are \$75,000 from Awaiting Justice,” a recently reincorporated horse sanctuary founded by Marie Matte as Diamonds in the Rough in 2004, “and about \$1 million from Goliath & BeBe’s World,” a multi-species sanctuary and dog-and-cat adoption program founded in 2001 by Nedra Wooley and Joyce Walker.

Matte told Scanlan that Cladek gave \$37,290 to Diamonds in the Rough in 2008 and 2009, but plaintiffs are seeking repayment of twice as much as Matte says the charity received. The sum sought from Goliath & BeBe’s World is almost the entire revenue of the charity in 2007-2009, about 40% of which was raised through program service, according to the Goliath & BeBe’s World filings of IRS Form 990.

Says the Goliath & BeBe’s World web site, “Recently, the owner of the property filed for bankruptcy...If we are unable to purchase it, we will lose the sanctuary.”

The Sevier County Humane Society in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, in 2009 discovered that “we are required under law to return donations made” by another alleged Ponzi schemer, Dennis Bolze, executive director Jayne Vaughn told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “We have enlisted the help of an attorney to handle negotiations/communication with the trustee from the bankruptcy court. We have not yet settled,” Vaughn said. “The American Eagle Foundation here got hit the worst,” Vaughn added, “as in addition to having to repay donations received, they had invested a significant amount of money with Bolze, that was sacrificed as well, and also have to return any dividends they received.”

American Eagle Foundation founder Al Cecere did not respond to an **ANIMAL PEOPLE** inquiry, but the foundation “may be out more than \$1.25 million,” reported Derek Hodge of *The Mountain Press*: what the foundation lost to bad investments, plus \$814,000 in donations claimed by creditors. Hodge wrote that the American Eagle Foundation is contesting the payback order.

AWARDS & HONORS

Australian philanthropist Phil Wollen on November 30, 2010 awarded the **Winsome Constance Kindness Gold Medal** and accompanying cash prize of \$25,000 to Cornell University professor emeritus of nutritional biochemistry **T. Colin Campbell**. Wollen lauded Campbell as “arguably the most powerful force in this generation for educating human beings on the serious health dangers of eating animals.” Past Kindness Medal recipients have included animal advocacy organization founders **Maneka Gandhi, Jane Goodall, Paul Watson, Pradeep Kumar Nath, Christine Townsend, and Jill Robinson**, and cancer researcher **Ian Gawler**.

The Humane Society of Boulder Valley in Boulder, Colorado, on December 1, 2010 won the \$100,000 **American SPCA Save More Lives Award**. Runner-up was the **NOAH Center** in Stanwood, Washington. **The Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center** in Tallahassee, Florida won the \$25,000 **ASPCA Community Engagement Award**. Runner-up was the Mohawk & Hudson River Humane Society in Menands, New York.

Los Angeles Animal Services’ North Central Animal Care Center, rebuilt in 2006, in November 2010 won a Design Green award from the **Architectural Foundation of Los Angeles**. The shelter earlier won an **American Institute of Architects** design award, was named “Best Green Building” by **California Construction Publications**, and has been honored by several community service organizations.

44% of animal charities see fewer donations in 2010

NEW YORK—44% of animal charities saw decreased donations in the first nine months of 2010 as compared to 2009, reports the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. 31% of animal charities saw increased donations, while 23% saw no change, the Center on Philanthropy found.

No sector surveyed by the Center on Philanthropy experienced a steeper drop in revenue. The center’s October 2010 eighth annual fundraising survey included data from 151 animal charities.

As a whole, 36% of the 2,356 public charities and 163 private foundations surveyed reported increased income in 2010, while the number reporting a decline decreased to 37%, from 51% in the 2009 survey.

Overall, assessed GuideStar, one of the participants in conducting the survey, “The results of our fall fundraising survey may indicate the beginning of an economic recovery in the nonprofit sector. For the first time in two years, there is cause for cautious optimism about the sector and the economy.”

GuideStar contracts with the Internal Revenue Service to post the IRS Form 990 filings of U.S. charities. Other participants in the Center on Philanthropy study included the National Center for Charitable Statistics and the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

The animal charity sector has been found by other studies to include more total donors than any but religion, but animal charity donors typically make the smallest contributions and split their giving among by far the greatest number of recipients. Animal charities usually rely on small donations to meet operating costs, but rarely are able to accumulate enough income from small donations to fund capital projects, such building or renovating shelters and acquiring vehicles.

As grant funding for capital projects is scarce in the animal charity sector, capital projects usually are funded by bequests and the occasional large gift.

Wealthy Americans donated 40% less to charities

in 2009 than in 2005, but 4% more volunteered for charities, the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University reported earlier, a finding appearing to explain why shelter building projects have stalled all over the U.S.

Funded by the Bank of America Merrill Lynch, the Center on Philanthropy surveyed more than 800 people with household income of more than \$200,000 or net resources of more than \$1 million, excluding the value of their homes. Respondents had average wealth of \$10.7 million.

While 98% of the respondents donated to charities in 2009, and two-thirds continued to support the same charities and causes as in previous years, the average amount given slid from \$91,928 in 2005 to \$83,034 in 2007, then fell to \$54,016 in 2009.

But 78% of the respondents reported volunteering for charities, up from 74% in 2007. This trend bodes well for the future, as volunteers and former volunteers are the people most likely to give or bequeath large sums to charities later—if their relationships with the charities remain positive, even after they quit volunteering.

The drop in donations from the richest Americans contributed to a 3.9% overall reduction in U.S. charitable giving. Based on past trends, of total U.S. donations of \$303.7 billion in 2009, about 1%—\$3 billion—was donated to charities promoting animal welfare, including advocacy and rescue. Another 1% went toward habitat conservation and preservation of endangered species.

The 2010 ANIMAL PEOPLE Watchdog Report on 155 Animal Charities

is now available: \$25/copy, from

www.animalpeoplenews.org

or **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, POB 960, Clinton, WA 98236

or call **360-579-2505** to order by MasterCard or VISA .

Retired judge asks Texas lawmakers to ban pit bulls after two deaths in 15 days

TYLER, Texas—Two pit bull terrier attack fatalities in 15 days appear to have put momentum behind retired Tyler district judge Cynthia Stevens Kent’s campaign to ban pit bull terriers in the state of Texas.

Both fatalities came within 20 miles of Tyler. Both came after Kent in September 2010 won a record \$7 million liability award in another local fatal attack case, and after repeated courtroom failures of Lillian’s Law, a “punish the deed not the breed” statute passed by the Texas legislature in 2007.

Kaden Muckleroy, age 2, of Henderson in Rusk County, was killed on November 10, 2010 while playing on a swing set behind his grandparents’ house when one of 30 to 40 dogs on the premises broke his chain and attacked.

The pit bull who killed Kaden Muckleroy was a favorite of the victim and had often played with him, his grandmother Nettie Muckleroy told Robyn Claridy of the Longview *News-Journal*. The dog originally belonged to the victim’s uncle, Kelvin Muckleroy Jr., 33, but was impounded after Kelvin Muckleroy Jr. was found shot to death in a burning house in nearby Longview in October 2009. Toronto “Trigger” Lockridge is charged with murder and arson in the case, and an alleged accomplice, Brandon “Bull” Horne, is charged with arson.

Kaden Muckleroy’s grandfather, Kelvin Muckleroy, reportedly paid the pound fees to retrieve the dog after Kelvin Muckleroy Jr. was murdered. The dog was the third from a shelter known to have killed a person in 2010. The other shelter dogs who killed a person included another pit bull and a Rottweiler. Dogs released from shelters killed six people

in 2000-2009, none in 1990-1999, and two in 1980-1989.

Kaden Muckleroy’s cousin, Emily Fenison, 18, visited the family after his death, then hanged herself in Carthage that evening, but Panola County officials said they believed her suicide was for unrelated reasons.

The Muckleroy family surrendered most of their dogs to the Henderson Animal Shelter. About a third to half were pit bulls or pit mixes, said shelter supervisor Ronnie Whittington. “There were some puppies that we were able to save,” Whittington told Tyler *Morning Telegraph* staff writer Kenneth Dean, but most were euthanized due to conditions allegedly resulting from chronic neglect of their health.

On Thanksgiving evening, November 25, two pit bulls belonging to Kathy Rogers and Michael Miller of Canton escaped from their home and attacked a border collie outside the home of Richard Martratt, 64, Van Zandt county sheriff Pat Burnett told media. Martratt’s mother-in-law Joan Hardin, 78, tried to stop the fight but was knocked down by one of the pit bulls and suffered a head injury, Burnett said. Martratt cut that pit bull’s throat with a pocket knife, but the dog bit Hardin’s son Alan Hardin, 50, before dying. As emergency medical personnel arrived to help Joan Hardin, Martratt suffered a fatal heart attack.

Uncollectable award

Representing bereaved mother Serena Clinton, Kent won the record jury award of \$7 million against pit bull terrier owners Rick and Christi George of Leveritt’s Chapel in Rusk County for allowing their two

dogs to escape and kill skateboarder Justin Clinton, 10, on June 15, 2009.

However, Kent wrote in a November 11, 2010 open letter to Texas legislators, “The owners had no home owner’s insurance and our client will likely never see a dime, even toward Justin’s funeral expenses. Not that money could ever bring a dead child back to life, but this fact just added insult to injury to the Clinton family.

Lillian’s Law

“In 2007 the legislature attempted to address the dog attack problem with Lillian’s Law,” Rusk recalled. “However, this legislation has such serious drawbacks that prosecutors often use another portion of the penal code rather than jump through the Lillian’s Law hoops.”

Fannin County Judge Lauri Blake in January 2010 ruled that Lillian’s Law is unconstitutionally vague, dismissing all charges against John Hardy Taylor. Two of four pit bulls whom Hardy was transporting in an open vehicle in August 2008 leaped out to attack an 11-year-old girl and a 44-year-old woman in downtown Bonham. Hardy was believed to be the first person to be charged with a felony under Lillian’s Law.

Despite Blake’s ruling, Nancy Hayes, 30, of Arlington, was in April 2010 charged under Lillian’s Law after her two pit bulls escaped from her home and mauled Robert Wallis, 66. One of the dogs was declared to be dangerous and required to be kept under restraint after attacking another man without provocation in June 2009. The dog was impounded in March 2009 because Hayes had moved without informing the city of the dog’s new residence, but was returned to Hayes after she paid a fine.

After the attack on Wallis a Thanksgiving 2009 bite by the same dog was reported by a neighbor.

Hayes reportedly plea-bargained four years on probation in August 2010.

Lillian’s Law was named after Lillian Stiles, 76, who was killed in November 2005 while working in her garden in Milam County. The law cleared the Texas legislature and was signed into law by the governor soon after Amber Jones, 10, of San

Antonio, freed a pit bull whose collar was caught in a chain link fence and was killed by the dog seconds later.

California dog law attorney Kenneth Phillips predicted when Lillian’s Law passed that it would prove ineffective both in preventing dog attacks and in winning felony convictions after severe attacks occur.

Lillian’s Law “increases the jail time for owners who fail to reasonably secure their dogs, resulting in serious bodily injury or death. The new law will do absolutely nothing for victims, however, who will have to pay their own medical bills, will receive nothing to minimize the effect of their scars, and will not be compensated for pain, suffering, lost income, loss of earning capacity, disability or anything else,” Phillips posted to his web site <www.dogbitelaw.com>.

“There are three glaring errors in Lillian’s Law,” Phillips continued. “The first one preserves the defense that enabled Jose Hernandez to escape conviction for the death of Lillian Stiles herself. Conviction is not possible unless there is proof beyond a reasonable doubt that the dog owner knew or should have known that his dog was going to cause death or severe bodily injury. In the Lillian Stiles case, Hernandez convinced the jury that he did not have the necessary culpability because he was unaware that his six pit bull/Rottweiler mixes were dangerous.

“Secondly,” Phillips said, “Lillian’s Law deals only with a dog running at large, or a dangerous dog who is not confined. If one of those conditions are not met, the law does not apply.”

Finally, Lillian’s Law “requires proof that the dog already had its ‘one free bite.’ This,” Phillip opined, is “more restrictive than the common law doctrine established by English judges in the 1600s. Under the ‘one bite rule,’ there is no automatic defense,” Phillips explained, “if the vicious dog is in an enclosure.”

Texas state law presently prohibits cities and counties from enacting ordinances that prohibit specific dog breeds, but the city of Garland in May 2010 adopted an ordinance requiring that pit bulls be kept behind six-foot fences, effective on August 1, 2010. The ordinance has not yet been tested in court.

Grandfather clause contributes to attack

DES LACS, N.D.—Grandfather clauses are a common feature of animal control ordinances, included to ease the passage and initial enforcement of provisions excluding poultry, livestock, exotic pets, horses, or dogs of high-risk breed.

The underlying hope of a grandfather clause is that animals who already live in a community when an ordinance is passed will be minimally problematic if they are not replaced or augmented by others.

When animal odors and noises are at issue, grandfather clauses rarely backfire. But Des Lacs, North Dakota discovered in November 2010 that a grandfather clause in a dangerous dog ordinance contributed to causing the problem it was intended to prevent.

Founded in 1888, declining for decades, Des Lacs is a town of barely 200 people located off the main roads west of Minot, known mainly for the nearby Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge.

When Des Lacs residents became alarmed in 2006 by the behavior of two boxer/bull terrier mixes kept by Jason and

Anna Heppler, the town council passed an ordinance prohibiting pit bulls, including bull terriers and their mixes, modeled after an ordinance already in effect in Minot since 1987. Then, “Because the ordinance was passed after the Hepplers arrived in Des Lacs, the dogs were allowed to remain, under strict conditions delivered to the Hepplers,” reported *Minot Daily News* staff writer Kim Fundingsland. “The Hepplers were warned that the dogs had to stay on a leash and could never run loose in the community.”

The dogs were in the Hepplers’ home on November 18, 2010 when baby sitter Lori Amsden, 46, ran to their two-year-old daughter, who had awakened screaming after a nap. Mauled over most of her body, Amsden was in “stable but guarded” condition at Trinity Hospital in Minot at Thanksgiving, said Fundingsland.

“According to Anna Heppler,” wrote Fundingsland, “she warned Amsden on the morning of the attack to ‘don’t go into the kid’s room’ where the 2-year-old was sleeping and where the dogs were kept.”

Calgary agencies are concerned about online sales of suspected fighting dogs

CALGARY—Discoveries of scarred, earless pit bull terriers and proliferating online ads apparently worded to sell fighting dogs in early November 2010 caused Calgary Humane Society executive director Patricia Cameron and Calgary Animal Services director Bill Bruce to appeal for community vigilance against dogfighting.

Cameron and Bruce asked the online trading post Kijiji.ca to block dog ads using phrases such as “large head size” and “fearless, aggressive and strong,” reported Kenyon Wallace of *The National Post*.

Kijiji.ca already claimed to have blocked ads for pit bulls. “When there’s a suspicion that we’re dealing with such ads where a poster might be trading a dog for the purpose of fighting, we’re going to take down the ad,” Kijiji head of customer support Christian Jasserand told Wallace.

But **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found in a November 28 spot-check that about 4% of the ads at the Kijiji.ca Calgary web site were for pit bulls, under a variety of common names for “bully” breeds. These breed names did not appear on the Kijiji.ca Vancouver web site.

Cameron told media that she suspects pit bulls are imported into Alberta to guard marijuana crops.

“Interestingly, the problem isn’t in Calgary but in some of the rural areas,” Bruce told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “We did have a breeder try to start up in the city, breeding for aggression and shipping puppies south of the border for significant dollars, but he was swiftly dealt with,” in August 2009.

“What the media responded to,”

Bruce continued, “is that we have seen a few dogs with injuries consistent with fighting. Our biggest challenge is the on-line sales. We find many [of the sellers] aren’t anywhere near Calgary but use it as an address to throw off the scent.”

Calgary has by far the highest rate of dog licensing compliance in North America and perhaps the world, exceeding 90%, more than twice the highest rate ever achieved by any U.S. city of comparable size. Bruce contends that enforcing the licensing law and other conventional dog ordinances will prevent dogfighting and dog attacks without need for breed-specific laws. But Bruce acknowledges having investigated some nasty incidents.

In May and June 2009, for example, pit bulls were repeatedly released from vans to attack residents of East Asian descent, injuring a three-year-old, a four-year-old, and men aged 70, 78, and about 55. A 27-year-old woman pleaded guilty in connection with three of the attacks. Additional suspects were beyond Calgary jurisdiction.

In May 2010 a bull mastiff attacked two teenagers, then severely injured a woman just a week later. In each case the dog initially attacked smaller dogs who were being walked by the human victims.

“Our bites took another big drop last year, down to 58 total, most of which happened in-house to a family member or guest,” Bruce said. “Our numbers look strong again this year. So, we don’t anticipate changing our position, but we will continue to take very strong action against anyone who has a dangerous animal.”

Cockfighting seizures up 20%— & more “rescue” hoarding in 2010 than puppy mill neglect

With more than a month of 2010 remaining, U.S. animal agencies had already impounded record numbers of gamefowl in alleged cockfighting cases and dogs and cats in alleged mass neglect cases, but impoundments in alleged breeder neglect cases were down 58% from 2009.

The numbers of dogs and cats taken in from failed animal shelters and nonprofit shelterless rescues in 2010 appear likely to exceed the numbers impounded from breeders for the first time in the 19 years that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has kept track. About 4,600 dogs and cats had been taken in from failed shelters and rescues as of Thanksgiving 2010, almost the same as the then-record number taken in from failed shelters and rescues in the whole of 2009. The 2010 figure projects to a total of nearly 5,000 for the year, or 25% of the total number of dogs and cats impounded in neglect cases.

About 3,840 dogs and cats had been impounded from breeders at Thanksgiving 2010, projecting to 4,200 for the year: 22% of the dogs and cats impounded in neglect cases.

The numbers of dogs and cats taken in from failed shelters and rescues has trended rapidly upward, from 2,159 in 2005 to more than twice as many in both 2009 and 2010. The increase follows a rapid rise in the numbers of incorporations of animal charities, especially organizations attempting to pursue

a no-kill philosophy, and reflects two years of national economic downturn, as new animal charities in particular have struggled to develop a donor base.

Impoundments in breeder neglect cases topped 4,500 in 2005, dropped to 3,000 just two years later, then soared to 8,000 in 2008 and 10,000 in 2009. The downturn in impoundments due to breeder neglect may reflect the success of new legislation in several states, notably Pennsylvania, in holding breeders to higher standards—or may reflect diversion of animal agency resources to helping the animals received from failed shelters and rescues.

The numbers of dogs and cats impounded from individual hoarders reached 5,000 for the first time in 2005, peaked at 7,700 in 2008, dropped to 5,650 in 2009, and had rebounded to more than 9,100 by Thanksgiving 2010, projecting to 10,000 for the year.

Pit bulls & gamecocks

Impounds of pit bull terriers in individual hoarding cases rose from about 10% of the dogs in 2005 to nearly 20% in 2008, a year after the arrest of football star Michael Vick for involvement in dogfighting raised public awareness of the possible meaning of someone keeping large numbers of pit bulls.

Only about 15% of the dogs seized in hoarding cases in 2009 were pit bulls, and the pit bull percentage is back down to about 10% in 2010. Pit bulls and their close mixes are barely 5% of the total U.S. dog population. Impoundments of pit bulls in dogfighting cases has trended downward from nearly 900 in 2000 to 750 in 2009 and a projected 700 in 2010.

Gamefowl seizures have averaged about 8,000 per year for the past decade, but had reached 10,000 by Thanksgiving 2010 and are likely to reach 11,000 by year’s end.

Equines

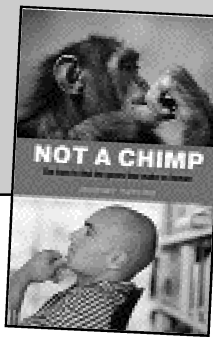
Despite the continuing claims of proponents of resuming horse slaughter for human consumption, which ended in the U.S. when the last horse slaughterhouses closed in 2007, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has found no hint in equine impoundments due to neglect or abandonment of an oft-alleged horse neglect and abandonment crisis.

The largest number of horses who have been impounded due to neglect or abandonment since **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has kept track was 2,375 in 1996. This fell to barely half, just under 1,350, in both 2005 and 2006; rose to 1,890 in 2007; then dipped to 1,600 in 2008, 1,450 in 2009 and 1,132 through Thanksgiving 2010, projecting to 1,235 for the year.

Not a chimp: *The hunt to find the genes that make us human*

by Jeremy Taylor

Oxford University Press (c/o 198 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016), 2010. 338 pages, paperback. \$14.95



This first book by Jeremy Taylor, for 30 years a scientific documentary film maker, is intense. *Not a chimp: The hunt to find the genes that make us human* consists chiefly of discussions of such topics as sequence divergence, pyramidal neurons, and translocation of chromosomes. Taylor is aware of the implications of his research for animal rights activists, philosophers, and attorneys, and for species conservationists, bioethicists, and biomedical researchers too, but he limits his discussion of these matters to a few pages at the beginning and end of what is otherwise a scientific treatise.

Indeed, Taylor seems to have little interest in the application of any of the scientific findings he brings together relevant to the question as to what distinguishes humans from chimpanzees and other apes. Taylor opines at several points that he believes neither animal rights arguments nor conservation of great apes are well-served by arguments which assert that chimps and other great apes should be protected because they are so much like us, but he does not go into detail. What concerns Taylor is that the case for humans as a subspecies of chimp is in his view ill-founded—and he makes a very strong scientific case in that direction.

First, Taylor points out, that humans and chimps apparently branched off from a common ancestor six million years ago does not mean that we are separated by only six million years of evolution. Rather, we are separated by 12 million years of evolution: the distance each species has evolved since our ancestors diverged.

Second, the difference of a mere 1.6% in the content of chimp and human DNA does not really mean that all the differences between us are accounted for in that 1.6%—or that we are as closely related to a banana as the possession of 50% of our genes in common with a banana would imply. As Taylor explains in detail, the content of a gene is much less important in species differentiation than the order of gene expression. A convenient metaphor for that is the 26 letters in the alphabet. The same 26 letters and the sounds that they make appear in any sentence written in the English language, or any vocalization. The meaning they convey, however, varies hugely

depending on how they are ordered and at what length.

Of further importance is the role of the genes that differ between human and ape. Apparently a disproportionately large number of these genes are the controllers that direct what the other genes will do.

Taylor briefly reviews the evolution of the notion that chimps are quasi-humans, including the work of Jane Goodall, who long lived among among wild chimps in Tanzania. Goodall established that many traits once thought to be exclusively human, including some capacity for abstract reasoning, are found in chimps. Most influentially, Goodall witnessed and reported the first examples of chimps using tools. In 1960 she saw chimps use grass stems to fish for termites “licking off the insects that clung to the probe,” Taylor recounts. Later Goodall and other observers saw chimps using sticks to “dip for honey and probe for bees.”

But limited capacity for abstract reasoning has since 1960 been discovered in dozens of other species. Tool use has been discovered in hundreds, including arthropods (spiders) and cephalopods, an ancient branch from the mollusk family. Such “human-like” traits, though often well-known in folklore, apparently had not been scientifically observed and documented earlier only because no one was looking for them—and though discovering these traits helps to establish that animal intellect has long been underestimated, and to establish human kinship with animals, this discovery does not lessen the reality that we have developed our intellectual capabilities far beyond those of any other animal.

Chimps are undoubtedly smart. They can learn to play some computer games better than humans, and play complex tricks on each other. But they are not human. They do not speak our language fluently, though a few have learned some basic language skills. Neither do they have the human ability to exercise complex abstract reasoning. Despite the intelligence of chimps, they are more like other animals in their behavior, when left in their own habitat, than like humans, who typically begin modifying any habitat we occupy.

“They aren’t us,” summarizes Taylor, describing

some of the disasters that have befallen people who have tried to raise chimps as quasi-children—notably St. James and LaDonna Davis, who kept a chimp named Moe as their son.

Eventually, after Moe injured two visitors in separate incidents, he was placed in a sanctuary, by court order. In March 2005 St. James and LaDonna Davis visited Moe to celebrate his 39th birthday with new toys and a raspberry sheet cake. Several resident chimps from adjoining cages escaped and attacked St. James, causing him some of the most severe facial injuries that a human has ever survived. His testicles and a foot were severed.

Taylor does not deny that chimps are much more human-like, in anatomy and behavior, than most other animals. He does not argue in any way that chimps should be exploited or mistreated. But he does point out that even the most widely divergent frog species are actually more closely related than human and chimp, when gene expression is properly taken into account.

“The philosopher Peter Singer argued that when we put human interests above the interests of any other species, we are guilty of speciesism—a form of racism,” Taylor summarizes. “When scientists like Jane Goodall agree to stand as expert witnesses in favor of human rights for Hiasl Pan,” the chimp who was subject of a failed lawsuit seeking human rights for chimps in Austria, “are they not unwittingly guilty of a similar type of mild racism because, by stressing the continuity between us and chimps, they make way for chimpanzees to join a club which always puts its interests first? Instead of spreading continuity,” Taylor argues, “they are simply broadening this species chauvinism.”

Concludes Taylor, “Re-branding chimpanzees as humans will not save them from extinction. Rather, it behooves us as humans, to find ways of managing our affairs that are far less ruthless and dismissive of the survival of the rest of the animal kingdom, and the environment on which they depend.”

—Merritt Clifton & Debra J. White

Born Wild by Tony Fitzjohn

Crown Publishers (c/o Random House, 1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019), 2010. 310 pages, hardcover. \$24.00.



The title *Born Wild* suggests an adventurous book by a daring author. That describes it. Growing up in England, Fitzjohn loved Scouting. Tarzan tales enchanted him. As a troubled teen Fitzjohn landed in Outward Bound programs that eventually took him to life-changing experiences in Africa. A letter Fitzjohn sent to *Born Free* author Joy Adamson sent Fitzjohn to Kenya, where at age 22 he became assistant to her then-husband, conservationist George Adamson, who was then 61. Fitzjohn helped Adamson to rehabilitate injured or formerly captive lions, leopards, and African wild dogs for return to the wild.

Tracking lions in the bush back in those days, between 30 and 40 years ago, was considerably more difficult and dangerous than today because radio collars had not yet been developed. Fitzjohn despaired when beloved lions suddenly vanished, such as one named Lisa, whose disappearance “left a big hole in our lives. She was a lovely lioness.”

Like George Adamson, Fitzjohn spent years cultivating relationships with lions, trying to build trust, mindful that lions are still wild animals and may behave as such, no matter how tame they seem. Once in 1975, “I was incredibly lucky to survive,” recalls Fitzjohn. “My attacker’s teeth had come within millimeters of both my carotid and jugular arteries. There are holes in my throat that I could put a fist through, and I did.”

After several months of recovery Fitzjohn returned to help George Adamson at Kora. The camp they built eventually became the hub of the Kora National Reserve, initially designated in 1973 but not added to the Kenyan

national park system until 1989, after George Adamson came to the aid of a tourist and was murdered in a confrontation with poachers. Joy Adamson had already been killed in a confrontation with an ex-employee in January 1980.

Conflicts with poachers and illegal grazers intensified after a border conflict between Kenya and Somalia in 1978. Somalia lost the war but, Fitzjohn remembers, “There were suddenly a lot of well-armed Somali men flooding across the border into northern Kenya. They were bandits, well-trained, ruthless and armed.”

Another camp near Kora was attacked and everything of value was looted. Two workers were killed. Poaching escalated. The Kenyan government was either unwilling or unable to stop it, despite warnings that wildlife tourism could be destroyed. Political unrest, corruption, drought, and tribal strife plagued Kenya for more than a decade. Understates Fitzjohn, “Kenya had suddenly become a scary place.”

Of George Adamson’s murder, Fitzjohn says, “If I had been there it wouldn’t have happened.” Racked with guilt for having been elsewhere, Fitzjohn moved to Tanzania —“the perfect place for me to bury myself and reinvent myself after the events of the past few years.”

For more than 20 years now Fitzjohn has worked tirelessly to rehabilitate and return to the wild injured animals in Tanzania. He has continued to defend game preserves against poachers and illegal grazers, many of whom are armed, and to stand up to government officials, who are sometimes indifferent, sometimes corrupt, and sometimes just hellbent on economic development at any cost. Fitzjohn travels the world to raise money to continue saving African animals. And he always gives credit for his successes to George Adamson, who made his wild life possible. —Debra J. White

The Dog Who Couldn’t Stop Loving

by Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson

Harper (10 E. 53rd St., New York, NY 10022), 2010. 239 pages, hardcover. \$25.99.



Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson in *The Dog Who Couldn’t Stop Loving* joins a growing pack of authors who in the fall/winter 2010 publishing season attempt to reprise past best-sellers with a volume focusing on a favorite dog.

Masson, a former psychoanalyst, has somewhat more to say than Ted Kerasote and Rita Mae Brown, whose dog stories appear alongside *The Dog Who Couldn’t Stop Loving* on store shelves, but his discussion of his dog Benjy likewise disappoints. Simply put, *The Dog Who Couldn’t Stop Loving* is less ambitious and original than the books that established Masson’s reputation—including *Dogs Never Lie About Love* (1997), which covered similar material.

Masson in *When Elephants Weep* (1995) introduced readers to serious scientific findings about animal emotion. *The Pig Who Sang To The Moon* (2004) explored the emotions of farmed animal species. *The Cat Who Came In From The Cold* (2004) was a fictionalized treatment of how cats joined the human domestic circle. *Raising The Peaceable Kingdom* (2005) investigated conflict resolution among animals. *Altruistic Armadillos, Zenlike Zebras: A Menagerie of 100 Favorite Animals* (2006) explored animal personality.

The Dog Who Couldn’t Stop Loving discusses how dogs, Benjy in particular, win our hearts. Benjy, a guide dog drop out, is fortunate that Masson adopted him. But Benjy is much like most other dogs, including my own adopted mutt. Loyal and loving, there isn’t a dog snack that Benjy doesn’t eat. He is a wonderful pet, but Masson struggles to derive an entire book from his antics.

The most controversial topics Masson addresses in *The Dog Who Couldn’t Stop Loving* are the evolution of domestic dogs from wolf-like ancestors and dangerous dog behavior. Masson describes his version of the dog/wolf domestication process, much as he did in

Dogs Never Lie About Love. Theories abound as to how, where, and when dogs became domesticated. Advances in paleontology and genetic research may bring us closer to the truth, or may not.

Does it matter? The argument that dog origins have a practical value tends to center on training methods, but as behaviorist Alexandra Semyonova pointed out in *The 100 Silliest Things People Say About Dogs* (2009), the methods often touted as based on wolf behavior are mostly based on misunderstandings of wolf behavior, and don’t work with wolves, who tend to be much more interested in escaping from humans than in figuring out how to please us.

Whatever dog ancestors were, dogs as they exist today are not wolves, and have evolved with human society. Let us appreciate dogs as they are, and care for the less fortunate among them.

Most dogs will never seriously bite or maul someone, but as Masson observes, dog bites are a serious problem. Unfortunately Masson is careless in at least one of his factual contentions. On page 122 Masson states that most dog bites take place when a dog is tethered. No source is cited, and no major study says so. It is correct that chaining makes a dog irritable and more territorially defensive. Jefferey Sacks found in his 1996 landmark study of dog bites that 29% of fatal dog attacks on children involved chained dogs. This trend continues, as documented by the anti-chaining organization Dogs Deserve Better, and is noteworthy because perhaps the most common reason for chaining a dog is the presumption that chaining will prevent the dog from doing anyone harm.

I’m a Western gal and my horse friends would probably throw hay at Masson for saying that “horses are just not suited, by size, temperament, evolution, or their emotional constitution to be playmates for humans.” Masson appears to believe, as many animal advocates

do, that domesticating and using horses is inherently exploitative and disadvantageous to the interests of horses. But this is a different argument from contending that humans and horses are incompatible. The human/horse-and-donkey relationship endures, while other animals once tried as steeds and work animals have resisted use and have been abandoned as domesticated species—including onagers, zebras, and quaggas, all fellow equines.

Horses and donkeys, for whatever reason, accept human use and often develop emotional bonds to their people. Despite the frequent mistreatment of horses and donkeys at human hands, they have prospered in the evolutionary sense from the relationship, expanding into more habitat niches than almost any other species—except dogs.

The Dog Who Couldn’t Stop Loving is worth reading, but I didn’t howl with delight. Among Masson’s 26 books to date, this is not likely to be remembered as part of his canon. —Debra J. White

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Animals' Friend Hospital raided in memory of founder Crystal Rogers

DELHI—Avenging the memory and intentions of Animals' Friend Hospital founder Crystal Rogers, 32 years after her forced resignation by trustees she alleged were only trying to grab the land, deputies for the Animal Welfare Board of India on October 23, 2010 removed all 18 dogs from the premises. The dogs were relocated to the Friendicoes animal shelter, also in Delhi.

"With the dogs safe, we can work on taking action against this so-called hospital, and the shocking cruelty that it was perpetrating on the animals," attorney Anjali Sharma e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "It is now being used by an unscrupulous industrialist for housing his office and staff, with the hospital merely a front."

Brigadier (Retired) V.S. Sukhdial initiated the raid at request of AWBI director General (Retired) Rammehar Kharb. "Twinkle Gogia, who alerted us to the plight of the dogs, who were perpetually tied, not exercised, and inadequately fed, was present for the rescue," Sharma said.

Emigrating to India with her parents at age six in 1912, Rogers initially did animal rescue as a mobile canteen driver with the Gurkha Regiment in World War II. She founded Animals' Friend in 1959. Ousted in 1978, Rogers relocated to Jaipur, directing the first Help In Suffering clinic and shelter from 1978 to 1991, when she turned Help In

"Lizard King" sentenced

PETALING JAYA, Malaysia—Anson Wong Keng Liang, 52, on November 6, 2010 saw the Malaysian High Court increase to five years a six-month sentence he received from Selang Sessions Court on September 6 for smuggling boa constrictors.

Initially trafficking in reptiles via the now defunct Bukit Jambul Reptile Sanctuary, Wong was called by Bryan Christy "the most important person in the international reptile business" in Christy's 2008 exposé book *The Lizard King*.

Arrested in Mexico City in 1998, Wong was extradited to the U.S., where he served a 71-months prison term after pleading guilty to 40 counts of smuggling, conspiracy, money-laundering, and other violations of wildlife laws.

Wong returned to Malaysia and the reptile business after his release.

Suffering over to Christine Townend, who was succeeded on retirement in 2008 by present director Jack Reese, VMD. At age 85 Rogers then founded Compassion Unlimited Plus Action in Bangalore.

Among the young volunteers and visitors Rogers whom influenced at her three shelters were Geeta Seshamani, who founded Friendicoes in 1979; Maneka Gandhi, who founded People for Animals in 1984; Amala Akkineni, founder of the Blue Cross of Hyderabad; and Suparna Ganguly, Sheila Rao, and Sanober Bharucha, her eventual successors at CUPA. Rogers died in 1996.

OBITUARIES

"I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him. The evil that men do lives after them. The good is oft interred with their bones." —William Shakespeare

Avi Sivan, 53, was killed in a helicopter crash on November 23, 2010 while flying between Doula and Yaounde, Cameroon. A former commander of the Israel Defense Forces' elite Duvdevan unit, Sivan served as a security advisor for Cameroon President Paul Biya. Sivan founded the Cameroon Wildlife Aid Fund in 1997, which became Ape Action Africa in 1999. Operating a sanctuary in Mefou National Park for more than 250 apes and monkeys, Ape Action Africa in 2000 became a charter member of the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance and hosted the 2010 PASA management workshop.

Kathy Abell, 56, reportedly committed suicide on October 5, 2010 at her home in Elizabethtown, Illinois. Kathy and Al Abell, a coal miner, started an exhibition facility called Cougar Bluff Enterprises circa 1999, keeping wolves, pumas, a bobcat, and an African lion. On February 12, 2004 the lion killed Al Abell and escaped. His remains were found after police shot the lion at the edge of the Shawnee National Forest. Two pumas still on the premises at Kathy Abell's death were evacuated by Big Cat Rescue of Tampa, Florida.

Richard Goldman, 90, died on November 28, 2010 at his home in San Francisco. Founder of Goldman Insurance Services, Goldman and his wife Rhoda, who survives him, formed the Goldman Fund in 1951, distributing more than \$680 million by his death. The Goldman Fund in 1989 began awarding six prizes of \$150,000 each year to environmental advocates, mostly in the developing world. Many winners have worked on behalf of animals, including four of the 2010 recipients, whose efforts were summarized in the June 2010 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Nathan Jamieson, 32, formerly an elephant caretaker at the Western Plains Taronga Zoo in Dubbo, Australia, was killed on October 20, 2010 by a blow from the trunk of an elephant he was attending at the Abu Camp safari and elephant reserve in Botswana.

David L. Grove, 31, a Pennsylvania Wildlife Conservation officer since 2001, was shot dead on November 11, 2010 after cornering suspected poacher Christopher Lynn Johnson, 27, of Gettysburg at a cabin in Franklin Township. Johnson has been charged with murder. Grove was the first Pennsylvania conservation officer to be killed in the line of duty since Joseph McHugh was shot near Weatherly in November 1915.

Margaret E. Meyer, Ph.D., 87, died on October 8, 2010 from complications of pulmonary disease. Starting her career as a swine brucellosis control agent for the USDA, Meyer spent 40 years doing brucellosis research at the University of California at Davis, 1947-1987. "She cared for feral cats near her Carmichael home and supported wildlife advocacy groups," recalled Robert B. Davila of the Sacramento Bee. "In 1992 she testified in a federal case against cattle ranchers' claims that their herds were being infected with brucellosis by bison from Yellowstone National Park."

Frank Fenner, M.D., 95, died on November 21, 2010. A professor of microbiology at the John Curtin School of Medical Research in Canberra, Australia, Fenner researched the use of the myxoma virus to kill rabbits from 1946 to 1950, when the virus escaped from a test site in the Murray Valley and spread rapidly through South Australia, coinciding with an outbreak of encephalitis among humans. Fenner and two colleagues injected themselves with enough myxoma virus to kill 1,000 rabbits to demonstrate that the virus does not attack humans. Myxoma virus was then repeatedly released to attack rabbits, but Fenner accurately warned that because about half of 1% of the infected rabbits survived, the survivors would produce enough immune descendants to rapidly rebuild the population. After 1969 Fenner focused on smallpox eradication, heading the World Health Organization's smallpox eradication from 1977 until May 8, 1980, when smallpox was declared extinguished worldwide.

They Had Me at Meow by Rosie Sorenson

Self-published c/o <www.theyhadmeatmeow.com>, 2010.
102 pages, paperback. \$15.95.



They had Me at Meow author Rosie Sorenson became involved with homeless cats after a car accident scrapped her working career. By chance she met a man who cared for a cat colony. Soon hooked, Sorenson is now high priestess of cats at a place called Buster Hollow in northern California.

Feral cats fear human contact, and may never become tame enough to live indoors with humans, but when shown kindness and respect they form relationships with humans, Sorenson explains. But not all of the Buster Hollow cats are feral. Some are lonely discards, abandoned by their former people. Others are just lost.

Sorenson describes 23 cats from the Buster Hollow colony, including Girly Girl, a sassy colony leader who is "always looking over her shoulder" to make sure Sorenson follows. Exquisite color pictures scattered throughout the book often show cats on their backs, waiting for belly rubs or engaged in

play. All of the Buster Hollow cats have been trapped, altered, and returned to their habitat, but cat lovers will lament that so many handsome cats live outside, sometimes in harsh conditions. When possible, Sorenson places cats into responsible homes. Turtleman, a black cat, lives comfortably with Sorenson and her partner Steve. Abandoned as kittens, Thelma and Louise share their good life.

Sorenson spends as much time as possible getting to know her cats and making them comfortable. Caring for a cat colony requires a substantial commitment of time, money, and perseverance. Sorenson recommends research before making the plunge. Cat rescue isn't for everyone. She offers personal insight as well as a list of resources for those interested.

They Had Me at Meow is a superb coffee table book. Keep it in mind as a holiday gift.
—Debra J. White

ANIMAL OBITUARIES

Spunk, 10, a therapy dog kept by a 75-year-old retired teacher in Taman Merdeka, Ipoh, Malaysia, was shot by dogcatchers on October 29, 2010 while the woman fetched paper to clean up after him. Made public by her son, Rohan Marshall of Bangkok, Thailand, the killing rallied national and international support for efforts led for years by Sabhat Alam Malaysia, the Ipoh SPCA, Noah's Ark Ipoh, and PetPositive to abolish dog-shooting. The Ipoh City Council banned dog-shooting on November 16, 2010. PetPositive president Anthony Sivabalan, who is also a Petaling Jaya city councilor, told Ivan Loh of the *Star of Malaysia* that "The council will send its officers to their counterparts in Petaling Jaya next week to learn dog-catching methods. They are also studying the possibility of setting up an animal shelter. A committee set up by the council will have meetings later to discuss neutering the animals."

Prince Chunk, 12, said to be the world's fattest cat when rehomed by the Camden County Animal Shelter in New Jersey in 2008, died in his sleep on November 21, 2010 at the home of his adopter, Vince Damiani of Turnersville, who founded the Prince Chunk Foundation in June 2010 to provide temporary help, including veterinary care, to the pets of people who area in financial distress. "The organization now operates in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and California," reported Jim Walsh of the *Cherry Hill Courier-Post*.

Thirteen dogs and cats and 43 other animals died in a November 26, 2010 dawn fire at the Ark RAIN Wildlife Sanctuary & Exotic Animal Rescue in Brownsville, Tennessee. A kangaroo named Tucker tried to alert the occupants of the burning building, suffering burns on his paws and face, but only founders Tim and Toni Davis, a dog named Freedom, and a cat named Ashes escaped. Fifty-six animals kept elsewhere on the property survived, including a lion, a badger, a capybara, a fenec fox, and Tucker. Two other kangaroos are known to have done similar deeds. One in September 2003 fetched help for Australian rancher Len Richards after he was hit by a falling tree limb. The other kangaroo in March 1997 alerted Nigel Etherington of Australia to a house fire by banging furiously on his door.

Target, a former street dog in the Dand Aw Patan district of Paktia province, Afghanistan, on November 13, 2010 escaped from the home of Army medic Sergeant Terry Young, 37, in the San Tan Valley of Arizona, was picked up by Pinal County Animal Control, and was mistakenly euthanized on November 15, even though Young recognized Target from a photo on the county animal control web site and paid the fee to reclaim her online. Target was one of three street dogs who in February 2010 attacked a suicide bomber who entered a U.S. Army barracks. One dog was killed when the suicide bomber self-detonated. The two surviving dogs, Target and Rufus, were flown to the U.S. and adopted. The Pinal County employee who was responsible for the fatal error was discharged following an internal investigation.

Bozo, 17, an 875-pound bear fed since he was a cub by Leroy Lewis, 71, of Bushkill, Pennsylvania, was shot six times with a crossbow on November 15, 2010 by David Price, 46, of Cresco, Pennsylvania and two hunting companions. Lewis had been warned for illegally feeding wildlife, but many Bushkill residents told local media that Bozo was a docile and friendly bear who was essentially a community pet.

MEMORIALS

For my parents, who were my best friends always. For Karen, who was my unexpected soulmate. For Shadow and BeeGee, who will live in my heart for the rest of my days. All my Novembers will continue to be filled with love and tears. I am so grateful you were all in my life

—Lindy Sobel



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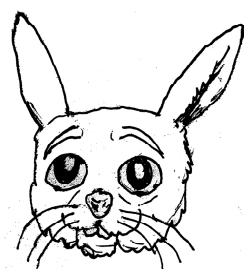
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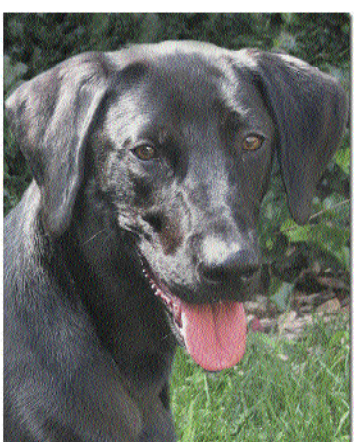
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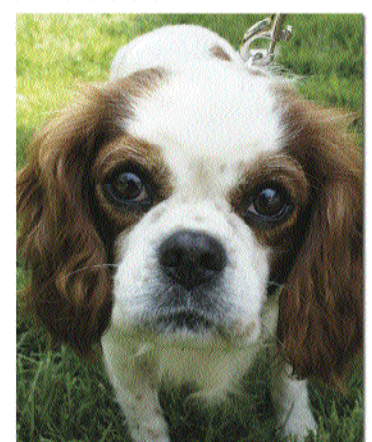
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Dear Friends,

Once again, we reflect on the many accomplishments we have achieved in the past year. We have had a wonderful 2010 and are looking forward to an even better 2011.

The Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum, developed in conjunction with Yale University's School of the 21st Century, was featured at the Yale 2010 National Education Conference. The first phase of the curriculum, Pre-K to 3rd grade that was piloted during the year and is rolling out to 1,300 schools, will help build children's social and emotional skills. By focusing on these crucial development skills, including self-awareness, empathy, team building and decision-making, we are teaching children to be kind to their families, teachers, friends and the animals.

The Mutt-i-grees Curriculum also teaches children about shelter animals letting them know that adopting a shelter cat or dog, is the right choice.

Based on the outstanding response we have received for the Mutt-i-grees initiative, North Shore Animal League America, in conjunction with The American Mutt-i-grees Club, has launched an online social networking site called Mutter. This new social media portal, www.mutter.muttigrees.org, encourages all animal lovers, the shelter community, educators and students to Mutter with family, friends, classmates and other animal lovers.

2010 also saw the expansion of our other programs. Our Mill Rescue Program, with the help of National Mill Dog Rescue, saved hundreds of dogs from inhumane treatment at commercial breeding facilities, also known as puppy mills. We increased public awareness of the variety of animals available at local shelters across the US, and educated the public that buying an animal from a pet store supports inhumane breeding facilities and perpetuates animal cruelty.

The year was a successful one for our National Mobile Adoption Tours, including 'Tour for Life', and 'Get Your Licks on Route 66'; with stops in 41 cities resulting in 1,122 lives saved in 2010. Now in its second year, 'Get Your Licks on Route 66' tour was honored by receiving the 'Key to the City' of Chicago Heights. A resolution was also passed unanimously by the Cook County board in support of the tour's life-saving mission.

Last but not least, Pet Adoptathon 2010 hosted by Cesar Millan was another great event, responsible for saving over 20,000 lives worldwide.

These accomplishments, and so many others, are possible thanks to the collective efforts and dedication of so many passionate people. Your devotion and support is invaluable, and as we have said many times, is a vital part of the winning combination for one day achieving our goal of zero homeless pets.

To all of our extended family, our supporters, we wish you a joyous holiday season and peace throughout the New Year.

Warm Regards,



J. John Stevenson, President
North Shore Animal League America

